Before, During and After the World War

Ic
940.3
P442
1529461

M.

INDIANA COLLECTION

940.3 P442
Peters, Joseph J.
Before, During and After the
World War

GEN

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01794 8354

GENEALOGY
940.410
AA1PE

BEFORE, DURING *and* AFTER *the* WORLD WAR

BY

JOSEPH J. PETERS

COUNTY DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FORT WAYNE & ALLEN CO., IND.

◆

Plates by the Fort Wayne Engraving Company
Printed by the Wayne Paper Box & Printing Corp.

Fort Wayne, Indiana, U. S. A.

COPYRIGHT, 1933
BY JOSEPH J. PETERS
MONROEVILLE, IND.

Ready for overseas duty. Picture of author taken in New York City just prior to sailing for France.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the Cause and Effect of the great World War, and is written without bias toward either side. Its contents form a narrative of the living experience of the author, as gleamed from the brief notes of his diary kept "Before, During and After the Great War," or as the French say: "Avant Pendant—'a Apres la Grande Guerre."

It is also dedicated to the honor and glory of the Knights of Columbus of America, through whose efforts I was given this great opportunity of service. Without them undoubtedly I would never have had this experience, would never have been a participant in the great conflict, owing to the opposition of lodges and various other organizations which prevailed at that time.

And it is especially dedicated to the memory of Marshal Joseph Joffre, one of noblest sons of France (after whom I was named and who was a first cousin to my dear mother), with whom I shared hospitality and grace while in Paris, and to his faithful friend, Georges Clemenceau, Prime Minister and worshipped French leader, who during my stay contributed much material upon which I have based my writing.

Introduction

This book was written from records of events in the life of the author, one who was born of poor parentage but whose father had been a student at the University of Strasbourg in both French and German and had studied for the priesthood but the glorious and glamorous reports of the then New World had caused his family to come to the United States where he attended Oberlin college to acquire the English tongue. Later he married into a family one of whose lineage became Marshal Joffre, whose help is shown in the production of this work.

The writer, born, as was Lincoln, in a log house, was the product of the common schools of Uncle Sam. Starting at an early age he taught in them for twenty years, successfully conducted a flour mill and grain elevator, then retiring from these he went into the insurance game for pastime. Yet young, he gave his service for the struggle of Liberty during the World War.

Not moved by any personal feeling nor prejudiced in any way, this writing comes straight from the shoulder and can be substantiated by proofs. Much of this work can be credited to my only sister, Laura, who departed this life ten years after I had returned from the stricken area of Europe—she alone had taken care of my business during my absence.

Being raised on the farm, having been trained from boyhood to work between two plow handles (sometimes getting yanked on the hip by them on account of a stubborn root in the ground), makes it natural that wherever I go my attention is always directed to agriculture; having taught school for twenty years fitted me to be interested in school work wherever I saw it; my commercialism of a period of eight years when I operated a grain elevator and flour mill in my home town and dealt in coal, hay, salt, seeds and wool, fitted me to be a close observer of these things wherever I went. In my earlier days I had constructed many buildings that still stand to the welfare of the community in which they were built. I have traveled some through our wonderful United States; was the alternate delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Denver, Colorado, when Bryan and Kern were nominated and still possess the badge of that convention. I have seen the plains of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and, Oh, yes—I was also in Missouri and ''you will have to show me!'' I have also visited Canada but not ''Windsor.'' On my way home from Europe by way of Marseilles I passed through the Strait of Gibraltar, going to Gibraltar City, then to Tangier, Africa, on to Lisbon, Portugal, thence to the Azore Islands, then home by way of Providence, Rhode Island and New York City.

This bit of biography will give the reader some idea of where and how I gathered material for this book. It is the result of my own experience and not the work of polluted minds of writers of many works produced during the vogue of war books and others like them, whose sole aim was the great sale of the books through big syndicates.

I give the cause of the war and its effect as I saw it—''Before, During and After the Great War''—''Avant Pendant—'a Apres la Grand Guerre.''

Contents

PAGE

DEDICATION V
To Knights of Columbus
To Marshal Joffre and M. Clemenceau

INTRODUCTION VII
Book Written from Records
Autobiographic Sketch

CHAPTER I.—CAUSE OF THE WAR........ 7
Cause and Cost........ 8
World Domination Taught in Germany........ 9
Germans Make First Move........ 11
United States Declares War........ 12

CHAPTER II.—UNITED STATES GETS READY FOR WAR 14
Author Begins Federal Service........ 15
Commandeered Wheat in German Family........ 16
Stirring Times 18
Liberty Hall Built in a Day........ 19
Loyalty Demanded 20

CHAPTER III.—BUSY IN ARMY WORK........ 21
American Men Called........ 22
Ordered to the Front with A. E. F........ 23
Chaperon of Secretaries Sailing to Europe........ 24

CHAPTER IV.—CROSSING OVER........ 26
No Casualties Going Over........ 26
Put on Play in Mid-Ocean........ 27
Arrival in England........ 28
American Cemetery Visited in Havre........ 29

CHAPTER V.—UNPREPARED FOR WAR........ 29
Preparations a Monstrous Undertaking........ 31
Work to Do in France........ 32
W. W. Atterbury Instals American Railway in France.... 32
General Pershing in Charge of Americans........ 35

Contents—*(Cont.)*

PAGE

CHAPTER VI.—WESTERN FRONT 36
  Entire Battle Front 36
  Western Front Held by Americans 37
  Allied Armies Fight Back Germans 38
  Battles of Arras, Somme, Messenes 39
  German Stronghold, "Mont Sec" 40
  French Fighting—Gas 46
  Writer's Experience with German Gas 46
  Condition of Field Hospital 47

CHAPTER VII.—AMERICAN GRIT 51
  A French Soldier's Story 51
  Ludendorf Writes a Letter 53
  Negotiations for Peace 59
  Americans Scatter the Germans 60
  American Nerve and Cheerfulness 62
  Pope Asks Peace 67
  Peace Urged by German People 68
  Author Receives Bronze Medal 76

CHAPTER VIII.—A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF M. CLEMENCEAU 76
  Clemenceau as a Youth 78
  His Stay in America 81
  The Fighter for Liberty in France 83

CHAPTER IX.—THE GLAD HAND 84
  Welcome to Americans 84
  Armistice Changes Attitude to Americans 86

CHAPTER X.—ARRIVAL IN PARIS FOR PEACE CONFERENCE 88
  Paris in January, 1919 88
  Author Receives Special Traveling Card 90
  Headquarters of Peace Conference 90

Contents—*(Cont.)*

PAGE

CHAPTER XI.—ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKES JACK A DULL BOY 92

Big Boxing Bout 92
Jean Tunney Defeats Frenchman 93

CHAPTER XII.—THE PEACE CONFERENCE 95

General Conditions Discussed First Day 95
The Food Question 95
Prominent Men on Peace Pact 96
President Wilson Honored 97
Twenty-eight Nations Represented 99
French Ship Owners Appeal to Wilson 101
Japan Opposes China 102
Chinese-Japanese Controversy 103
M. Clemenceau and President Wilson 104

CHAPTER XIII.—ARTICLES OF PEACE 104

President Wilson Reads League of Nations Rules 105
Personal Composure Noticeable 107
Plot Discovered to Murder Wilson 112

CHAPTER XIV.—PEACE DEMANDS 113

Reparations Demanded of Germany 114
Surrender of German Equipment 114
Cessation of Hostilties Ordered 115

CHAPTER XV.—WRITER SECURES TRANSFER TO PLACES ON BATTLEFRONT 117

Arrival at Men-la-Tour 119
Serves on Missions to Numerous Places in France 122

CHAPTER XVI.—A VISIT TO METZ 123

Strong Fortified City 123
In Search of Locomotives 124

Contents—*(Cont.)*

PAGE

CHAPTER XVII.—A TRIP TO DOREMY........ 126

Birthplace to Jeanne 'd Arc........ 126
Letters of Joan of Arc to English........ 128

CHAPTER XVIII.—FINALLY CALLED TO GERMANY........ 129

Armistice Settlement Renewed........ 129
German Prisoners Held Pending Settlement........ 131
Disagreement in Germany........ 132
Germans Ordered Off Polish Territory........ 133
Nine Important Points of Peace Treaty........ 134

CHAPTER XIX.—GOVERNMENTS FACE GRAVE QUESTIONS........ 135

Russia Not Heard From........ 135
German Emperor Flees to Doorn........ 136
Prince Max Resigns........ 137

CHAPTER XX.—ON A MISSION TO STRASBOURG, GERMANY........ 137

Interior of Germany Unmolested........ 138
The Cathedral at Strasbourgh........ 140
The Strasbourgh Clock........ 141

CHAPTER XXI.—A VISIT TO LOURDES........ 146

The Story of Bernadette Soubirous........ 146
The Apparation........ 146
Our Lady of Lourdes—The Grotto........ 151
The Basilica........ 156
Pic-du-Jer........ 158
Monte Carlo........ 158

CHAPTER XXII.—THE DEVASTATED COUNTRY........ 162

Verdun........ 162
Lost in Wire-Strewn Country........ 162

Contents—*(Cont.)*

PAGE

CHAPTER XXIII.—KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES 164

- "Casey" on the Job 166
- Supplies and Entertainment for "Buddies" 166
- The Story of Uncle Joe Keran 171
- Locating People Difficult Task 172
- A Case of Embezzlement 174

CHAPTER XXIV.—CHARITY WORK 177

- French Orphan Fund 178
- The Whorton Shoe Fund 180
- Charity to Roumanians 181

CHAPTER XXV.—PRESIDENT WILSON BACK ON THE JOB 181

- Gathering at Versailles 182
- The Treaty of Peace Signed 182

CHAPTER XXVI.—GERMANS DOUBTED TREATY 184

- Treaty Same as First Presented 184
- Not Ratified by United States 185

CHAPTER XXVII.—BUSINESS RECUPERATES 185

- Disposing of Surplus War Material 186
- "Sales" in Name Only 188

CHAPTER XXVIII.—AMERICANS RETURN HOME 189

- General Pershing Makes Inspection 189
- Conditions at Home 190
- After-War-Time Problems 190

CHAPTER XXIX.—SHIPPING BOARD SHOWS DECREASE 192

- Foreign Shipment Tonnage Less 193
- Switzerland Neutral 193

Contents—*(Cont.)*

PAGE

CHAPTER XXX.—DESCRIPTION OF CITIES VISITED...... 193

Liverpool, London, Southampton, Havre, Paris, Reims, Cambrai, Somme, Chateau-Thierry, Saint Quentin, Pont-a-Mousson, Le-Mans, Nancy 193-239

CHAPTER XXXI.—A BATH IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN 234

Le Conquet and Point St. Mathieu........ 234
Visit to Abbey and Cathedral........ 236
Surprised on the Beach........ 238

CHAPTER XXXII.—A GLIMPSE OF THE BATTLE OF THE MARNE 239

Germans on Western Front........ 239
Advance to Paris........ 240
Marshal Joffre in Command of Defense........ 242
French Pay Tribute to Hero of the Marne........ 243

CHAPTER XXXIII.—AMERICAN CHARITY WORKERS BUSY 246

Reconstruction Work Done by American Women........ 246
Condition of French Homes........ 247
French People Cheerful........ 249
Noted Change in Foreign Governments........ 250

CHAPTER XXXIV.—CONDITIONS OF COUNTRY, PEOPLE AND SCHOOL........ 252

Europeans Not Progressive........ 252
School Work Retarded........ 253
French People Sociable........ 255

CHAPTER XXXV.—FRENCH FORTS........ 256

French Cities Fortified........ 257
Monstrous Forts Worthless Now........ 258

Index *(Cont.)*

PAGE

CHAPTER XXXVI.—STRANGE HABITS AND CUSTOMS 258

Two-Wheeled Carts for Transportation........ 258
Mode of Taxation........ 259
Frugality in Living Noticeable........ 259
Money Gained from Tourists........ 261

CHAPTER XXXVII.—EFFECTS OF GREAT WAR UPON MORALS OF A. E. F........ 263

Average Soldier Under Strict Discipline........ 264
Officers Have More Liberty........ 266
Morals of Low Standard........ 268

CHAPTER XXXVIII.—WHAT DID THE WAR DO?...... 270

Germany's Enormous Debt........ 270
America's Big Money Loans........ 271
Where Borrowed Money Went........ 273
World Dominion Crushed........ 278

CHAPTER XXXIX.—HOMEWARD BOUND........ 279

Writer Returns to U. S. A........ 279
Account of Work as Given by Journal-Gazette........ 280

CHAPTER XL.—AUTHENTICITY AND DATA OF BOOK.... 287

CHAPTER XLI.—A BOOK OF FACTS........ 288

Index to Illustrations

PAGE
Ready for Overseas Duty III
The Author at Home 6
Atlantic in Mid-Ocean 13
Group of Secretaries 25
American Cemetery in France 30
Railroad Switching Yard in France 34
French Cemetery Torn Up 42
German Observation Point 43
German Tank in No-Man's Land 45
Men-Il-la-Tour, American Headquarters 49
Remains of Fort Pompille 55
Ruins at Chateau-Thierry 57
Cathedral at Reims 61
American Boys on Argonne Field 65
Marshal Joffre in Full Uniform 75
Bronze Medal Given Writer 77
M. Georges Clemenceau 79
Detailed to Search for Missing Plane 85
Lost Plane Found on French Aviation Field 87
Quay 'd Orsay, Paris 89
Hotel de Crillion, Paris 91
German Army Returning Home 125
Tower of Bordeaux Cathedral 127
Astronomique Clock at Strasbourg 143
Pie-du-Jer, Lourdes, France 155
Electric Tramway to Pie-du-Jer 157
Distant View from Monte Carlo 159
Across the Bay from Monte Carlo 160
The Casino at Monte Carlo 161
Verdun—Destroyed by Shells 163
Decorating American Graves 165
Knights of Columbus on Decoration Day 167
Circus Day at Paris 169
American Camp Pantanezen 173
Decoration Day Parade 175
Statue of Emperor William Thrown Over 187
French Capitol at Paris 201
Royal Bridge Over the Seine 203
Bird's Eye View of Paris 207
Reims—Cathedral in Background 212
Le Conquet—Terminal of Interurban 235
Point Saint Mathieu 237
Marshal Joseph Joffre 241
Rev. Father C. Cabaret 265
Saint Sabine, Brittany, France 267
Church at Saint Sabine 269
Gold Medal Presented to Writer 286
Author and Sister at Home 289

The author in his uniform at home.

"Avant, Pendant, 'A Apres La Guerre"

Before, During *and* After *the* Great War

CHAPTER I

Cause of the War

I am beginning to write this history fifteen years after the termination of the World War, yet even at this late date there are people who have passed through the horrors of this, the greatest war known, and know not now the real cause back of all this terrible desolation and loss of human life. I will try to give the cause of the war and its effect as I saw it—it measures as "Before, During and After the Great War," translated into French, "Avant Pendant—'a Apres la Grand Guerre."

In recounting my story only such words and phraseology as are used in the diction of the common English speaking Americans will be used and let it hit wherever and whomever it will—I will stand back of it with evidence of proof. I was always a great reader and always kept posted on current happenings. I felt sure at the time of the completion of the Kiel Canal that it was built for a specific reason other than the one given out at that time and that there would some day be something doing in Europe. It was built with that intent; time showed that its use was not practical except to bottle up the German navy in the North Sea.

The war with Germany began April 6th, 1917, and hostilities ceased on November 11th, 1918—Armistice Day. The United States had an army of 4,051,000 men, and the total cost was more than $40,500,000,000. I am not accounting the vast economic loss of the killed and incapacitated, nor the stupendous sums paid in pensions and continuous bonuses that are to continue for many years. All in all, war is, as Sherman said, "Hell," besides it is stupid, cruel, and indefensible from either a moral or economic standpoint.

Drawing up the bill which the European nations must pay the United States for loans made on account of this war does not prove an easy task but those in charge will probably come to a final satisfactory decision even though France and other nations defaulted. Belgium, Estonia, Finland and Poland also defaulted December 16th, 1932. A later news items from Warsaw, Poland, on June 8th, 1933, reads: "The cabinet has decided not to meet the June 15th debt installment to Washington of $3,559,062, it was said tonight. The default will be on the grounds that the financial situation has not improved since December 15th, when Poland defaulted."

1529461

France, we expect, will again default. And, of course, the other nine countries will default. In the case of France, there is no justification from any viewpoint for default in the majority opinion. Certain of the smaller countries simply cannot meet their current payments under present conditions. Certain of the others have defaulted by choice. But even default by the entire list, England included, cannot halt the recovery in this country.

Some writers tell us that the war started at Sarajevo, when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, heirs to the Austro-Hungarian throne, were assassinated by Gabriel Princip, June 18th, 1914. This is not the actual truth. The object of Germany was not to avenge these deaths but to Germanize the world, the same tactics as Frederick the Great and later Napoleon followed. I was told time and again by German-French people in whose homes I was billeted during my stay in Europe during the war that ''German domination'' was the chief topic spoken in Germany prior to the war. It was taught in the German schools, in the German home, and even in the churches, both Lutheran and Catholic. An old lady, with whom I stayed at Strasbourg, told me that ministers and priests would not teach about Christ in their sermons, but would speak about ''the benefit one would derive if all the people in the world would speak the same langauge, and that language should be the German language.'' They spoke of the trouble of making exchange of values, ''how much easier it would be,'' they said "if there would be but one kind of money used in the world—and that should be the German money." We all know, who have had some experience in traveling from one country to another, how hard it is to learn these values of exchange. Their theory was very interesting, but it was shown then that it could not be done among so many nations. In order to prove that it could not be done it cost the life of *thirty million* humans, and at a cost of *three hundred fifty billions* of dollars, and threatened to wipe out the civilization of western Europe.

The method of warfare was entirely different from that of former wars. Wire entanglement, motor tanks, bombing planes, submarine, gas bombs and the "Berthies" were all new to the average soldier. "Trench fighting" was new. There were few open space engagements. Most of the land fighting was from trenches, and dug-outs. The navy and forts were of little use and rarely were engaged. The engagements may have appeared to some as a great game. Had it not been for the heavy casualty it might have been called such. There was much treachery, jealousy, and spying on both sides, especially among the officers. It seems to me that the "battleground" on which this great struggle took place is the "battleground" of Europe, in much the same way as a "golf ground" is where golf is played. Almost every fifty years there is a struggle on this field, where most of the property is devastated. Yet re-habitation soon takes place.

3 1833 04320 2438

I was told of an incident of the beginning by an American family who were domiciled in a hotel in Berlin at the time the first news of war was made known there to the public. They said, "We attended a play in one of the many leading theaters there the evening previous to the day when war was declared. Everything was quiet. Not a sign of any disturbance to cause uneasiness. We retired as usual, but were roused up at an early hour by the sound made on the streets below us, as if made by heavy ambulances and trampling of feet. We got up and looked out of the window—saw soldiers, cannon, artillery, and wagons moving down the street. Going downstairs to the lobby, we were told that Germany had declared war against the *world,* and that we all would be held there as prisoners. It was with great difficulty, after many days' waiting, that we were permitted to leave the hotel for America."

After passing through the Kiel Canal, the German army advanced and, believing that the Belgium army would not resist, attempted to cut across that country to surprise and attack the French, then wholly unprepared for an attack. But the Belgian officers said, "You shall not pass." A halt was made. This caused a delay of several weeks. Finally a skirmish ensued between the two armies. A number of lives were lost on both sides. This kindled the sparks of war among many European nations. The smaller nations desired to be neutral, at least until such a time when they could pick out the winner of the game. The delay made by the resistance of the Belgian army gave France some time to get out its rusted armaments and prepare to move to meet the Germans on the same battlefield where Napoleon met the British—and along the same field where the French met the Germans in 1871.

So long as the belligerent nations did not interfere with American trade on the sea, just so long was the United States on friendly terms with them and enjoyed a volume of trade oversea. The Lusitania—a large, ocean-going American passenger vessel, crossing the Atlantic ocean, on May 7th, 1915, was sunk, 1,154 lives were lost, of whom 114 were citizens of the U. S. A., and this, together with the attacks and reprisals of our shipping, made it such that the United States government after much hesitation declared war against Germany and other Entente nations, April 6th, 1917.

The United States was practically unprepared for war. Its standing army and navy were scattered over the whole world, and the recruiting of a new army was no easy task. This war had been going on for four years before the United States entered it. The Allies had suffered much, and it was not until after the decisive "Battle of the Marne," which was lead and won by Marshal Joffre, that the weakness of the German army was made known. The Joffre-Belfort mission to the United States lead many of our people to change their attitude in favor of our government entering the war. The recounting of the history of the colonists at the time when General LaFayette with his army crossed the

Author's first attempt at photography. Off the star board of passenger steamer Princess Julianne, showing Atlantic in mid-ocean.

Atlantic to help a just cause against autocratic domination, in addition to the interference with our ships on the high seas, had much to do in proclaiming war against Germany. There was much German espionage going on in this country and the spies were numerous.

CHAPTER II

United States Gets Ready for War—Tremendous Preparations

Then came the cloud that led to war. It was for or against. "A hot time in town." The United States wanted to keep out of it. President Wilson's slogan was "Keep Us Out of War." But the impositions, the slurs, the threats made by the Entente nations were so bitter that finally the United States declared war against them.

We received some very unfavorable reports of the war abroad. But this time some of the American forces had arrived there, but progress was slow.

I was ineligible to enlist as a soldier. The Federal Educational Department at Washington, D. C., keeps a record of all school teachers showing experience, age, nationality and linguistic ability. The war had not been declared long when I received a card from the Federal War Department announcing that if I desired a position in the service as French interpreter it would be offered to me. I was told to report to the nearest recruiting station, which was Fort Wayne, Indiana, if I desired to enter the service, which I did. I heard nothing from them for some time. Early in February, 1918, I received a letter informing me that my offer had been accepted and that I should prepare myself to become a French interpreter of the army post in France. A questionnaire was enclosed for me to answer, which I did and within a few days I received from the department a request to present myself at the recruiting station at Indianapolis, Indiana, for a further examination. My physical and mental test was perfect. My height, six feet two inches, and my weight, 168 pounds, were correct and I showed a picture of health. The question of whether to go or not to go, often revolved in my mind. Leaving my home, leaving an only sister, dear to me, caused many sleepless nights, and often tears at the thoughts of the separation.

After determined consultation with friends, knowing that if the Entente succeeded we, in this country of the free, would soon be under German domination, I consented to place my application. I proceeded to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and at the recruiting station again I offered my service to the government.

It is strange that things are such, especially when the whole world is on fire, that states and communities are dominated by lodgeism, churchism and politics. Indiana was ruled during the entire war by *Masonry,* that is Masons were given the preferences, except in cases of emergencies.

The very first question asked me at Indianapolis was "Are you a Mason?" I knew from that time on that I would receive no favors. However, I passed the examination with a grade of 97.5 percent. I was told to be prepared at all time, and at different times during the summer of 1918 was ordered in the service, of the food department, to commandeer articles of food from parties whom it was known were holding for higher prices, or refused to sell their products unless they were sure that it would be shipped to feed the German army. I am going to give an example which was very amusing to the officers but not so to the parties concerned.

This shows the filial ties that existed in this German-American family at the time of the war. A German farmer of wealth, mostly made in this country, with a beautiful home and a very nice family of young men and women, living in the northern part of the state of Indiana, had garnered his wheat for several years. The price of wheat had been fixed by the government at $2.00 per bushel, but he refused to sell or dispose of it, unless he was assured that it would be shipped to Germany to help feed the German army, that he had been told were suffering from want. He declared and swore that he would not sell his wheat to any American market. The grain merchants of that town had offered him the top government price for it, but he refused to sell. I received notice from the food department to proceed to that town, some miles away, and order this German farmer to dispose of his wheat at the nearest elevator and get the market price for it. The government then had jurisdiction on all grain elevators. I called at one of the elevators designated, informed the man in charge of my mission, and had him call up this farmer.

The elevator man called him by phone and asked him if he would sell his wheat. The German farmer answered in a very vulgar way, telling him to go "to hell," that he knew when and where to sell his wheat, that he wanted no one to dictate to him, whereupon the other man told him there was a government officer in his office who wanted to speak to him. I then took the telephone and spoke to him in a kindly way, telling him that I was a government officer and that I desired to see him at once at the office of this grain elevator. The old German farmer got so excited that he could not speak so he had one of his sons speak for him. I arranged that the son should drive his father to town in his automobile, and meet me at the office of this grain elevator. In less than fifteen minutes they drove up to the office and as soon as he saw my emblem, which I always carried fastened to the lapel of my coat, he wilted, begged and promised to deliver the wheat at once to this elevator. I left blanks with the elevator man to be forwarded to the Government Shipping Board as well as one copy to me upon the delivery of this wheat. This showed to the food department that the agreement had been complied with. Such instances as just related were few and far between. Most of our German-American families in the United States were loyal to their adopted country. Many large contributions to the Liberty Loans were made by German families. Many boys of German decent volunteered and joined the American army and fought patriotically with the native Americans side by side, on the fields of the Argonne Woods in France.

STIRRING TIMES

During my travel on my mission for the Government Food Department I had the occasion to be present at Hammond, a city of possibly 60,000 people, in the northwest part of Indiana, a city of many foreign nationalities, engaged in making war materials, such as casting shell bombs, making gas masks and a thousand other articles and war accessories, the workers getting good wages, anywhere from $5.00 to $20.00 for an eight-hour day.

Enthusiasm there ran high during the progress of the Third Liberty Loan. Their slogan ran:

> ''Count that day lost, whose low descending sun,
> Finds in your hands no Liberty bond or gun.''

For the purpose of instigating this movement and to show their loyalty and patriotism to the cause a systematic plan was worked out by which ''Liberty Hall,'' a frame building 106 feet by 70 feet on Holman street and a wing on Fayette street, 50 feet by 70 feet, was erected in one day, March 30th, 1918. It took 75,000 feet of lumber. It covered 10,920 square feet of floor space. The rostrum was 43 feet by 20 feet. The building was equipped with five offices, two lavatories, drinking fountain and telephones; all, including wiring, water spouts and all details, was completed two hours before scheduled time. The material used was furnished at or below cost. All labor and workmanship was donated by the citizens of Hammond.

March 30th that year was an ideal day. So well was the plan outlined that not a single workman was injured while working on "Liberty Hall." It housed the Red Cross, Knights of Columbus, War Workers' Council, The American Alliance and furnished the headquarters from which to direct all local war activities from managing bond campaigns down to giving direct and intelligent aid to war-stricken families.

The program for the day's work was as follows:

7:00 A.M.—Starting gun fired.

7:45 A.M.—Cement foundation completed.

9:30 A.M.—Frame and roofers' work completed.

9:30 to 9:45 A.M.—Luncheon, 600 sandwiches, ten gallons of coffee served on the ground by the ladies of Hammond.

10:22 A.M.—Windows set.

12:00 M. —First squad of 160 workmen march to dinner at the First Methodist Church, served by the ladies representing every church in Hammond.

12:45 P.M.—Second squad of workmen march to dinner. Five thousand dollars' worth of Third Liberty bonds sold at the dinner.

1:00 P.M.—Painters go to work.

2:45 P.M.—Painters finish painting.

2:30 P.M.—Electricians on the job.

3:00 P.M.—Plumbing installed.

4:45 P.M.—Liberty Bell hung.

5:00 P.M.—Workmen pack up tools.

6:13 P.M.—Building completed.

Sunset—Flag lowered. Liberty Bell rung.

The number employed and donating their service on erection day consisted of twenty building contractors and building craftsmen, numbering three hundred, including carpenters, cement finishers, bricklayers, electricians, painters, plumbers and steamfitters, building laborers and hod carriers, lathers, stone cutters, roofers, teamsters, truck drivers, plasterers and sheet metal workers.

A band composed of members of the Hammond Federation of Musicians also donated its service for the occasion, and the Hammond Boy Scouts assisted in every way possible.

LOYALTY DEMANDED

This is only one of the many demonstrations of general conditions showing enthusiasm to the cause into which the people of the United States were then wrought.

People of all nationalities took part and showed their loyalty to the nation. There were few exceptions. Pro-German sympathy noticed, received rough treatment. One incident will illustrate. I was in New York City watching a parade of soldiers marching to the dock for passage oversea. Each company was headed by an American flag and a brass band. Every loyal American looking on was expected to salute or hail the flag as it was carried by. As I was looking on I noticed a man and his wife near the curb looking on but making no demonstration. This was brought to the attention of an army recruiting officer, who stepped up to the man and ordered him to tip his hat to the next flag that passed. This he refused to do. When the next flag passed, this officer knocked off the man's hat with a cane he carried. The woman took part in the scrap and protested at the treatment, stating that they both were loyal citizens, having purchased Liberty Bonds, etc. The argument attracted the attention of a large crowd, whereupon the woman fell into a fit of hysterics and swooned to the pavement. She was carried into an adjoining drug store in the arms of this same recruiting officer, where medical aid was given her and she soon was able to walk.

CHAPTER III

Busy in Army Work in the United States

During this time of waiting I was kept constantly informed of the activities of the War Department as to its demands, requisitions and progress. The Shipping

Board was much retarded from the lack of tonnage. All efforts were made to secure help for the shipyards and other places. Specialists were needed, especially the following:

Chemists (analytical—research), chemical workers, powder men, men experienced in gas manufacture, mechanics, automobile repair men, men able to operate and repair gas or steam engines, pipefitters, electricians, designers, carpenters, blacksmiths, plumbers, boilermakers, interpreters and chauffeurs.

Loyal American citizens with the above qualifications, between the ages of eighteen and sixty, who had not actually been enlisted by a local board in the draft, were eligible for enlistment. All men must at first enlist as a private at $30.00 per month and expenses. Men with the necessary experience were assigned to special duties and given non-commissioned rank at rates of pay ranging from $40.00 to $96.00 per month and expenses. The latter included food, clothing, medical attendance and transportation. I secured many men for the service to the 30th Engineers' Regiment, Camp American, University, D. C. I was kept at such work for several months, being known as "A Dollar a Year Man." My transportation was furnished me. I had given up all hopes of ever being called to go across the pond to meet the A. E. F. buddies.

At last, one day I was approached by a friend of mine, a member of the Knights of Columbus, who had a son across in the service. Knowing of my ambition to go across he asked me if I would accept a secretaryship with the Knights of Columbus in France as there was a splendid chance then offered. After due consideration I accepted but with the understanding that I was to secure my release from Uncle Sam, which was at first refused, with the statement that Uncle Sam would soon need my service in France as an interpreter. It was finally agreed that I should have the dual office of World War Welfare Worker and interpreter for Uncle Sam.

Application for my passport was made and everything was in order for my going. Then the memorable day—Armistice Day—came. For a few days everything was quiet. I thought I would not get to go across. President Wilson got ready to go to Paris in the steamship "Washington." "Something was going on."

A few days later I was directed by wire to report in New York City on a certain day. Letters of instructions followed. First-class passage was secured for me on the Broadway Limited and I was soon ready to report at headquarters in that city. I had to go through some more medical tests, was again vaccinated against smallpox and diphtheria and passed a good test. I was given two full officers' uniforms, consisting of two pairs of pants, two under coats, one heavy top coat, one rain coat, leather leggings, underwear, socks, cap and a supply of handkerchiefs. I was supplied with an army trunk, satchel, knapsack, search-light, field-glass, and kodak. I had my watch, pocket knife, combs, razors, but carried no gun, and must say that I never had an occasion to use one, although I was "on the go" almost all the time from the time of landing at Liverpool until I embarked for home at Marseilles, France. I had some difficulty in securing my vise at New York on account of Uncle Sam's claim to my service, but after several hours delay things were arranged satisfactorily.

Eighteen other secretaries from different parts of the United States were to take passage on the same passenger vessel with me, and for these I was selected as chaperon. I never was more surprised in all my life than at the time my name was announced, for me to be the leader of our party.

Names, residence, occupation of each of the group of the nineteen secretaries, while on their way to the battle front. Picture taken on board the "Princess Julianne."

REAR ROW

1. C. C. Marley, Brooklyn, N. Y., U. S. Custom Inspector, single, age, 44.
2. Martin A. Dowd, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., electrician, single, age, 49.
3. A. E. Nodler, Keokuk, Iowa, traveling salesman, single, age, 37.
4. R. L. McBain, Harverhill, Mass., foreman, single, age, 50.
5. John J. Keenan, Brooklyn, N. Y., salesman, married, age, 36.

MIDDLE ROW

1. M. E. Behan, Philadelphia, Pa., telephone clerk, single, age, 46.
2. Wm. McCarthy, Boston, Mass., attorney, married, age, 61.
3. J. F. Murphy, Dexter, Mass., cashier department store, married, age, 48.
4. John T. Kirk, Summit, Ill., railroad engineer, married, age, 37.
5. P. F. McEvoy, Youngstown, Ohio, salesman, single, age, 43.
6. J. E. Sullivan, Providence, R. I., telegraph operator, single, age, 42.
7. J. J. Peters, Monroeville, Ind., insurance adjuster, single, age, 52.

FRONT ROW

1. Wm. T. Cotter, Oil City, Pa., moulder, single, age, 40.
2. Wm. J. McNamera, Troy, N. Y., master mechanic, single, age, 35.
3. E. V. Hanegan, New York City, assistant foreman, married, age, 44.
4. Wm. P. Conley, Stanfordville, N. Y., theatrical clerk, married, age, 57.
5. James Scully, El Paso, Texas, Quartermaster, U. S. A., single, age, 43.
6. Mathew Howley, Norwal, Conn., moulder, single, age, 39.
7. J. C. Ford, Charlestown, W. Va., laundryman, married, age, 54.

Group of the nineteen secretaries, on board the ship Princess Julianne.

I, with my charge, took passage on the ''Princess Julianne,'' a passenger steamship commandeered from Holland by the government, carrying passengers, from New York to Liverpool. With us, as passengers, were sixty-five Y. W. C. A.'s, three young ladies and two men belonging to the Jewish Welfare War Workers and about 200 second-class passengers on their way home to Europe. Professor Guy Potter Benton, president of the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, a Y. M. C. A. worker, also was with us, as well as Miss Rebecca G. Affachiner, of the General War Welfare Board, 41 Boulevard Hansum, Paris, France, who was returning to the scene of welfare activities.

CHAPTER IV

Crossing Over

The trip across was an eventful one with so many people belonging to this class of work. The ship ''Princess Julianne'' was a stately ship, manned by Japan sailors with an English captain. It was furnished to conform with Dutch customs. We were all bound for the same destination, France, all on the same mission, service to the United States, and we soon felt the comradeship brought about by these conditions. We had a splendid reception hall in which the boy and girl entertainers, and there were several, put on a play called ''The

Haunted House,'' which was given Christmas evening, coached by Wm. P. Connolly, a master theatrical man. Following is the program in full:

PROGRAM

Entertainment on Board Steamship ''Princess Julianne''
Christmas Night, December 25, 1918

Program Arranged by J. J. Peters and Wm. P. Connelly
Announcements by P. F. McEvoy

1. Piano Selection	Miss Corey
2. Violin	Miss Camile Plazhard
3. Vocal	Mr. John Keenan
4. Monologue	Mr. William Eaton
5. Piano	Miss Beckwith
6. Vocal	Mr. Douglas Standworth
7. Reading	Miss Doris Leake
8. Vocal	The Misses Carter
9. Recitation	Mr. William McCarty
10. Vocal	Miss Geraldine Edgar

11. Sketch: ''The Haunted House''
By William P. Connelly

CAST:

Sleufoot Pete	Wm. P. Connelly
Inn Keeper	W. T. Carter
A Live Ghost	J. C. Ford

As we neared Liverpool a group of English officers met us, examined us and took with them all our letters and papers that might relate to the war, to be censored. As I was the leader of the party I had in my possession many government papers and at first I hesitated turning them over, but did so with the assurance of the officers that the letters and manuscripts would be forwarded to the parties before I reached Paris. On arrival there, however, I found that they had not yet been received, so I took the matter up with the Chief Postal War Office of His Majesty's Service, and in a few days I received the following: "Dear Sir: I am directed to acknowledge the letter of the 17th of January and to say that the ten letters and other papers to which you refer will soon be forwarded to their destination. I am, sir, your obedient servant, P. E. Burgen, Capt. for Chief Postal Censor. To J. J. Peters, Esq., care of Mr. Edward L. Hearn, 16, Place de la Madeleine, Paris." In a few days the censored letters and papers were received.

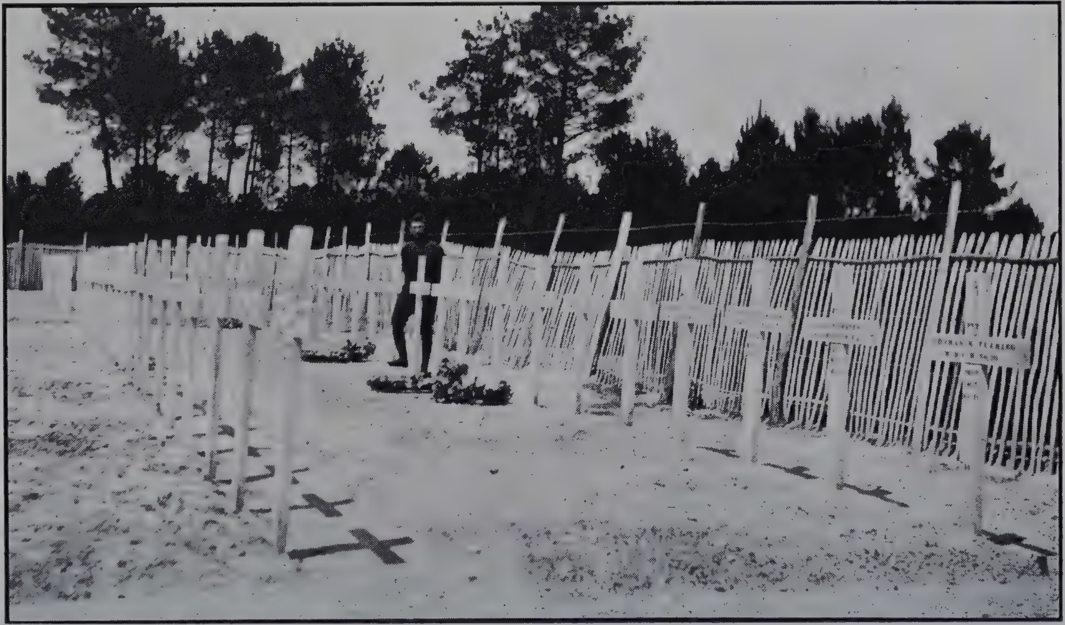
We were in charge of the American Express and the best hotel facilities of the time were given us. We remained a few days at Liverpool, then went to London, where we made a short stop, getting acquainted with the war conditions. We then went to Northampton, where we took passage on a small vessel and crossed the English channel to Havre, France. We remained in Havre for several days, and learned for the first time some of the customs of the French people. I found that the French bankers are very slow in their work. It takes them a long, long time to make a settlement of an account. But they are accurate. They seldom make a mistake, but they take their time to see that it is correct.

Almost all the work was done by women. All the able-bodied men were in the war service. They had curious ways of transportation. One saw many women pushing heavy loaded carts on the cobbled streets, to which they had one or two dogs hitched under the cart in such a way that the dogs did most of the pulling. While in Havre I visited the cemetery where many American buddies lie. The graves were well cared for. I also saw the gigantic grave where were buried more than 200 bodies—men who lost their lives in an explosion which took place near Havre, in a powder factory, when a magazine where more than 400 tons of powder was stored "let loose." That was only one of the many casualties of the war. We finally entrained on the Limited Express for Paris. We passed through Rouen, the city where *"Jeanne D'Arc"* was burnt to death. A reception committee met us at the St. Lazare-Paris station at midnight after having passed through the productive regions of Normandy and Bretagne. So it was on the 8th of January, 1919, that our party first saw Paris.

CHAPTER V

Unprepared for War

The United States was utterly unprepared for war at the time war was declared against Germany, April 6th, 1917. Many things were to be planned. The corps of United States civil engineers got together and formulated a plan or system of plans that astonished the



Author inspecting American cemeteries in France, as part of his duty. Cemetery near Camp DeSouge. Near grave of Private Ross Murchland, Monroeville, Indiana, who died of pneumonia—a private Br. 326th A. E. F. The body was later sent home.

world. These civil engineers knew that it was a monstrous undertaking. We were to go to a strange land to fight or defend our rights. France and England desired and pleaded and even demanded that the United States enter the war at once. They were on the verge of giving up. Our leaders knew that entering the war without some preparation was suicide, utterly impossible. Preparations had to be made to receive the troops, transport them across a dangerous ocean full of mines, submarines, bombs, torpedoes, an ocean menaced by Germany. (On my passage across, I was given a stateroom on the deck of the ship. Next to my door was a huge mine chaser. It looked very much like a huge canon. No mines were observed on our trip over, therefore I did not see how it was operated). The speed shown in the preparations was amazing, to Americans themselves as well as to the nations across the pond. And besides all this the soldiers had to be clothed and fed after they had been taken to a half faminished country.

After securing men, hastily drilled, and finding transportation, the big question was where to land them. British and French civil engineers thought their ports of entry were sufficiently large to care for all shipping facilities. To this the United States civil engineers would not agree. They examined the coastline of France and decided to build a large port of entry on the west coast, far enough and close enough to the then large ports of entry to facilitate the work and morals of the men. A site south of St. Nazaire and north of Bordeaux was selected. This was near a small village called Blaye. It was a desolate region, low, marshy, at a good distance from towns and cities—just the place wanted to keep up the morals of the A. E. F. The French civil engineers condemned the idea of making this the American port of entry, and the French government hesitated in giving its permit to such an undertaking, as it would take too long to accomplish the task. They wanted men, fodder to replete their army. After a long argument in which W. W. Atterbury, who is now president of the great Pennsylvania Railroad System, took part, the grant was given.

The Americans soon had huge dredges at work, scooping the shallow floor of the Atlantic ocean nearby, making it possible for large ocean-going ships to enter and debark their loads. The material taken in making this excavation was used among giant pillars and piles placed at close range throughout this low, marshy wilderness, making it one of the vast storage yards of the world. Railroad tracks were laid in this concrete floor, seven huge cranes were erected on and near the dikes, so that a large locomotive could easily be taken from the hold of the ship and hoisted to the track made ready to receive it. By this time a third track was built by United States civil railroad engineers in charge of Atterbury, parallel with the great French trunk line railroad to Chaumont, Gen. Pershing's headquarters, and with a connecting link to St. Nazaire, Chemin de fer (translated, railroad).

Transportation in Europe at the beginning of the war was not perfect. The roadbeds of the main lines were excellent, having up to date signal systems and double tracks. The railroads there were built to accommodate the towns and cities, for these places were founded hundreds of years before the railroads were built and therefore railroad civil engineering required many turns and twists. There are few railroad bridges, but many tunnels. Many of their rivers are canalized, and many railroads parallel the river banks. Their railroad locomotives are generally small affairs, made to run forwards or backwards—they need no turntables.

There are three grades of trackage, the standard, medium and narrow gauge. We used the narrow gauge to transport our troops and supplies. The tracks were assembled and ready to lay down. Twenty miles of track could be laid in a day, if the ground was not too uneven. We would manage to cross a river or stream across a highway bridge. Their freight cars, also, were very small in comparison to our large box cars. Every buddy is familiar with the expression, ''Quarante homme et huit chevaux'' (Forty men or eight horses). Their coal cars were generally four-wheel affairs, coupled with chains. Switching was done by the use of a crane lifting the cars from one track to another and shifting them in line by using a horse to do so. Gen.

Railroad switching yard in France.

1529461

Atterbury, who had charge of transportation of American affairs in France, saw that the antiquated system of railroading was insufficient and soon had the American system in use.

American telephone lines were built as fast as our trucks could travel.

The Allies were constantly demanding men for service in their armies. The Americans proposed to have sufficient men ready in the course of time to have its own army.

Gen. Foch, the generalissimo, desired the American forces to supply reinforcecements to all the Allied armies. Bitter resentment presented itself in which the Americans won the dispute and at the termination of the war had an army of more than 500,000 men under Gen. John Pershing. The Allies did not care to have the Americans carry any of the honors of the war. That is the reason they wanted our boys to fight beside them and with the British, French, Belgian and Italian armies.

When our first division of soldiers landed there, they were poorly provided for. Some had no guns, ammunition was scarce and tenting outfits were poor. As soon as ocean transportation was secured, vast quantities of American goods consisting of foods, horses, mules, clothing and in fact all the necessities of war, were rushed to the large storehouses along the line of conflicts. I saw enough American baled hay piled out in the weather to cover over acres of surface to a height of thirty feet. American automobiles and trucks covered acres of space near Dijon, and other depots. Huge canvases were their only covering for the winter. All the material needed on the battle fields was trucked there from the railheads. Vast quantities of oil and gas were required daily. Horses, mules and wagons were seldom used. Yet many hundred horses and mules were correlled in barb wire lots during the day and housed in barracks during the night. Many horses were stolen and never recovered. In the Belleau Woods trucks were used to carry all articles of warfare needed, even troops were often taken on trucks, some hauling as many as sixty soldiers on one truck. I saw trucks on the military road south of Verdun, which was camouflaged over the entire east side, carry as many as eighty buddies. The Western Front of the battlefield reached almost in a straight line, extending south from Ostende, Belgium, to Basel, Switzerland. It never receded more than sixty miles from this line, except when the German army made its rush for Paris, which began September 12th and ended October 8th, 1914.

CHAPTER VI

Western Front

The entire battle front of the World's War can be divided into five parts:

First. The Western Front extended, as I stated before, from Ostend to Basel.

Second. The Russian Front extended from Riga, Russia, to Warsaw, Poland.

Third. The Italian Front extended from Livigus, Switzerland, to Trieste, Austria.

Fourth. The Balkan Front was made up of several sectors, known as the Serbian Front and the Salonica Front.

Fifth. The Asiastic Front, which can be subdivided into three fronts: The Caucasus Front, the Bagdad Front and the Egyptian and Palestine Fronts.

My description merely concerns the Western Front, however, many American buddies did service on the other sectors. As I stated at the beginning, the cause of the war was the desire of *world domination.* The German army, sent forth with this intention in June, 1914, was stopped by the Belgian army south of Brussels. They were not permitted to pass, much less being a party to the offensive as the Germans had supposed. The action leading to the enemy's position to the extreme limit of the Germans' advance on July 1st, 1916, was far short of their position held September, 1914, caused by a flight of three great retirements, commencing with the retreat from Mons, and closing with the break before Paris. The British Expeditionary Force, on August 22d, 1914, took up its position on the French left, with its center at Mons. The next day the battle of Mons was fought, facing an overwhelming German force. They fought until Sir John French ordered a retirement. Many lives were lost on both sides. This battle lasted two days and two nights, by which time the British troops had reached the Cambrai-Le-Cateau line. The second retirement commenced after the German massed attack upon the entire front, August 26th. Two days later the Allies' armies had reached a line running from Rebemont through La Fere to Nayon, and from there a third retirement was effected, bringing the troops finally to a firm position where they awaited further action.

The position in this sector on July 1st, 1916, shows Germany rolling back toward the north and east. The first important event after the rush from Paris, made by the Allied forces from September 12th to October 8th, made good the Aisne river. Meanwhile the Germans were completing the conquest of Belgium, Antwerp following on October 10th.

The German offensive was now directed (1) towards the coast where Calais was to be taken—taken at all cost, and (2) against Paris, but not from the north, as at first planned. The Allied armies stood by at bay, defending the roads to Calais. Many attempts were made by the Prussian guards to break their way through at Ypres in the critical days of November, 1914. Hardly less fierce was the fight for the railroad at La Bassee. An offensive was attempted by the British at Neuve Chappelle, in March, 1915. Finding the Calais road a hard one to strike, the Germans commenced an offensive in the Argonne, where latter so many American buddies took part, followed by violent attacks from February to October, 1916, upon the Verdun sector. Strong German forces were flung into the battle, especially at Douaumont at Vaux, but in spite of the efforts they failed to capture the fortress. This was the most severe defeat inflicted upon the Germans on the Western Front.

The offensive of the British and French armies between July 1st and October 10th, also fell into three divisions, (1) the ''Somme Battle,'' (2) the ''Battle of Arras,'' and the French offensive on the Aisne river, (3) the ''Battle of Messenes.''

The ''Somme offensive,'' as it was called, commenced on July 1st, 1916, and by the 11th Sir Douglas Haig reported the capture of the enemy's first line from Misaumont to Beaches. After three days, the second line from Bazentin Le Petit to Longuwal was in the Allies' hands, and the carrying of the third plan, when we began to use armored tanks for the first time in war, drove a wedge between Somme and Arras, opening and making the Germans' position there untenable.

The ''Battle of Arras'' opened with the occupation of Bapaurue and Perronne after the Germans' withdrawal on March 14th, 1917, and by the 21st we held a hundred villages in this region. Vimy Ridge was carried on April 9th, followed by capture of Monchy le Prieux, standing 300 feet high on the neck of a spur.

The Hindenburg line was attacked on May 20th at Bullecourt, a further movement being made against Cambrai by Gen. Byng, in November. Meanwhile the

Battle of Lins was fought in June, July and August. The French offensive was to gain possession of a hog-back ridge, having a good road, ''Chemin-des-Dames,'' along the north bank of the Aisne river.

Their efforts were rewarded by a German retirement on November 2d. The ''Battle of the Messenes'' and ''Paschendaels Ridge'' were fought to improve our position at Ypres. A part of the Messenes Ridge was literally blown up by explosions from mines on July 7th, while the Paschendaels Ridge was carried by our own and Colonial troops on November 6th. In the spring of 1918 the German army again took the offensive. The Allies lost the ''Debatable Land'' gained by Douglas Haig in 1917, on the ''Somme Front.'' A desperate attempt was made by the Crown Prince's army to reach Paris by way of the Marne river. Ground was lost in drastic fighting south of Ypres. In July the tide of battle turned and rolled back on all fronts, and such good progress was made since the Americans appeared that practically all the lost territory was in the Allies' hands by the middle of September, 1918, so that we heard of proposals of *peace* offered indirectly by the Germans.

During the lull periods the Germans improved their positions of the line front by tunneling in the mountains and hills. For example at ''Mont Sec,'' a large hill had been fortified by the Germans beginning early in the conflict to improve it as a ''base'' for the army along the front, half way between Verdun and St.

Mihiel. A railroad tunnel was dug starting miles to the east, up and immediately under this gigantic bed of rocks. Layers of perforated tunnels led to large and capacious rooms, fitted with the latest accessories for sport and pastime. Rooms were electrified and carpeted, furnished with all kinds of musical instruments, pool tables and every class of paraphernalia required to entertain the great German men of the war. I had the opportunity to visit this place later when the rooms were only *dungeons,* made so by its eternal darkness. We carried searchlights and lanterns during our pilgrimage through this fortress.

Electric power here had been complete, elevators, light, heat, vacuum cleaners, water, their meals were cooked with electricity, in fact every conceivable electric machine was used. There was no smoke except that made by cigarette smokers. It was a bomb-proof haven, until the Allied aviators found the mouth of the tunnel. Then it was only during darkness that a train could approach. The immediate surrounding was utter destruction. Villages lay entirely destroyed. Churches, that one day were the pride of the people who lived there, were entirely destroyed. Church yards were turned up so that monuments lay scattered and broken everywhere, exposing caskets and skeletons that were dormant there "in peace."

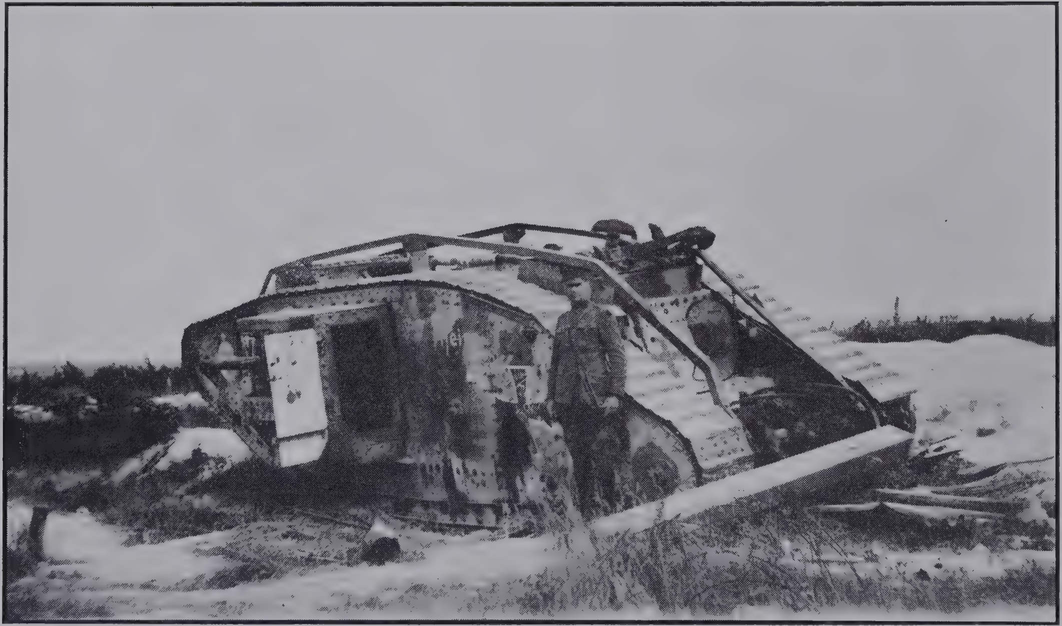
This German stronghold was protected by long range guns and mortars solidly founded in cement mortar bases. Long range field pieces were used to keep the

A French cemetery at Mont Sec, blown up by shells.

German observation point on No-Man's Land.

Allied spies away. These openings were heavily camouflaged, and by the use of smokeless powder it was almost impossible to locate the enemy. The soldiers there were equipped with telescopic gun sights and snipped any one coming near.

Trench fighting and long range guns were used, especially during the latter part of the struggle. Observation posts were established everywhere. Strong dugouts were made, overlaid with huge logs covered with dirt to protect the men from bombs, shrapnells, and shells fired at long range. These places were "hell places" during the rainy seasons, "mud to your knees" was almost the truth. Aviation was just beginning to be operated satisfactorily by the Allies at or near the end of the war, although the Germans were very successful with their planes. The Americans were also succeeding in taking observations by using balloons. The inflated balloons were let loose all set for action and when up to the desired height a click of the camera would take pictures of the enemy field, and the balloon would be drawn back by a block windlass to its mooring place. The pictures were quickly developed and taken down the line to the commanding officers so the enemy's position would be made known. The use of wire entangles were surely an impediment to an enemy, but the armored tanks played havoc with this entanglement. I once tried to cross one of these barbwire entanglements to get to an American cemetery, but found that it would have been easier for me to reach the cemetery by going



German tank in No-Man's Land, disabled by Americans around a detour of two miles. As it was, my pants were ruined and my shoes were full of holes made by the barbs that came from Muncie, Indiana. The shipping tags, still adhering to the wire, told me so.

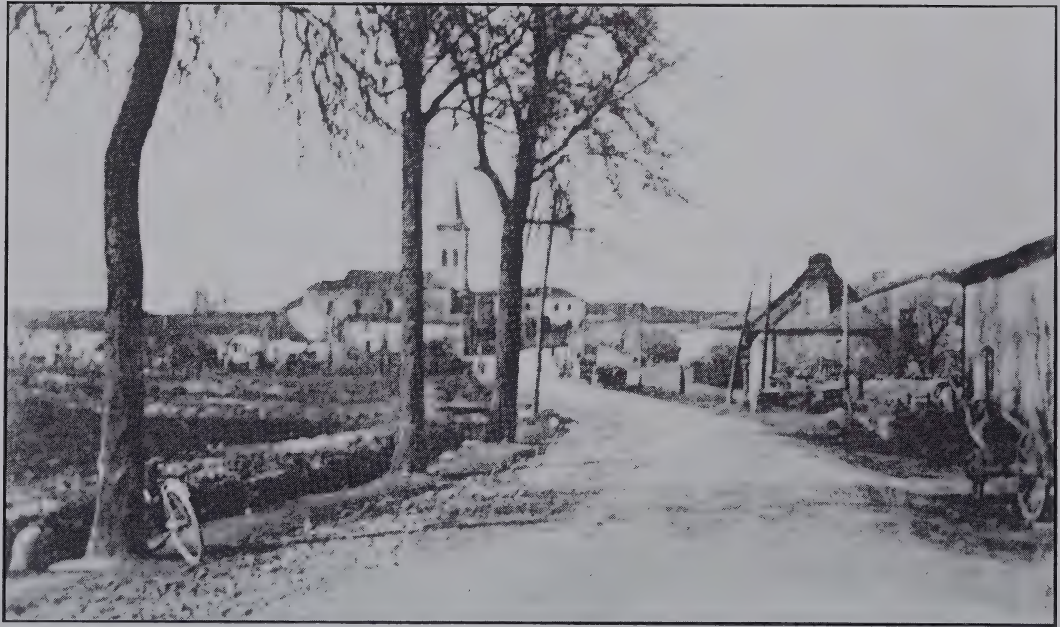
Gas, as an ammunition of war, was first used by the German army. Its use was becoming general at the termination of the conflict. It can be classed as one of the most ''awful means of destruction of life.'' I had a touch of its effect at our camp shortly after the signing of the Armistice. A large quantity of German gas bombs were stored in a temporary store-room awaiting to be destroyed. A mammoth pit was dug and the bombs placed in rows and connected with electric wires. Orders were given that they should be set off when the wind was blowing from us. One day as I was at my headquarters I heard the roaring sound of the blasts but paid no attention to it. About nine o'clock in the morning the wind changed position. Shortly thereafter I saw an officer galloping up through the camp giving the alarm that the town was gassed. He wore a gas mask, which indicated that we too should put our masks to use. I immediately got my mask on and stayed indoors the balance of the morning. The effect of the short exposure was so great that I became sick and had to be taken to the hospital. The camp physician gave me the choice of three places to go, the hospital at Toul, the French hospital six miles west of Toul, or at the field hospital, which was about four miles west from my headquarters. Many complaints had been made about the treatments at the field hospital, complaints that had been made to me in my regular work as this also was part of my duties—to visit the sick boys at the hospitals. I knew this would give me an opportunity to investigate the place and get information that could not be known otherwise. I selected the field hospital and soon a U. S. ambulance was ready to take me there.

Upon arrival at this field hospital, known as No. 4, I was escorted to my place in a long line of applicants to be examined by a corps of hospital physicians. My status was soon known. A sentry took charge of me and was about to take me to the ward where the hopeless were taken when a guard, who happened to be a Knight of Columbus, and with whom I had previously conversed and who knew I was not seriously injured, called out to this sentry that I did not belong in that ward. He again read his order and turned back to the emergency ward, where a booth was soon arranged which was to be my stopping place during my stay there.

Usually, a soldier is ordered to disrobe and put on clothing furnished by the hospital. This clothing was all disinfected and was free from all diseases. It consists usually of pajamas, nightgowns and underwear. The clothing from the soldier is taken to the wash room and, with hundreds of other, is washed and disinfected. The orderly who had charge of my ward permitted me to retain my clothes and a hanging place was made for them; however, I changed clothing and was not distinguished from any of the other patients in that ward.

Ordered to lie down on a cot prepared for me, some medicine was given me by my orderly, whom I had learned to like. He had been an apprentice in a pharmacy at Boston, Massachusetts. I soon found the place to be as reported, not a fit place for a seriously sick person. First, it was a double-tented hospital, out in the open field. The sanitation was bad, water poor. There was not a nurse except the orderly. I managed to keep warm by the use of my clothing. To be allowed to keep your clothes was unusual. All clothing and accessories a soldier had on entrancce were taken from him except his knife and other small trinkets and an order blank made out to show all his belonging. Upon his discharge these were returned to him.

The food at the time of my incarceration was not of the best, especially for a sick buddy. Coffee was about the only thing that I could use and that, with bread, made up my menu. There was not a drop of milk there at that time; not a pound of sugar; wormy beans were once brought to me, with a chunk of beef not the least bit appetizing, especially to a sick man. When I found out they had no milk, I made arrangements with my orderly to go to my headquarters, the "Knights of Columbus Hut" about five miles away, and have my assistant there, Mr. A. A. Gillespie, of the firm of Gillespie Bros., and whose home in America was in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, bring milk for the hospital. It was not long until my chauffeur, in company with Mr. Gillespie, appeared with cases of milk



Men-Il-la-Tour, on American Front, Headquarters for four months, winter 1918-1919. Occupied by the 7th Division, A.E.F.

to be used by the entire hospital during my short stay there. The medical supply of this hospital was low. The last dose of medicine was administered to me for my ailment at midnight on Friday, and no more medicine was available during my stay. I demanded my release and on Monday morning at 10 o'clock the ambulance drove up to take me back to headquarters where, in my medical chest furnished me by Uncle Sam as part of my kit, were more remedies than in the medical chest at the field hospital. It was some days before I regained my usual health, being nursed during this time by my assistant, Mr. Gillespie.

During my stay at the hospital many deaths occurred from the effects of gassing and the prevailing pneumonia which had become an epidemic. The weather was cold, the ground frozen to a great depth. The dead were taken across the road from where I lay in my booth and interred in shallow graves, wrapped only in blankets or gunny sacks, to await milder weather when they would be transferred to military cemeteries.

I made my report to the government of the conditions of this hospital, and suggested that trained nurses be installed. Two days after four trained nurses from the Toul hospital were detailed in two shifts for duty there.

It was not long after my return from the hospital that Mr. Gillespie was taken down with what is known as "pink eye." Our company physician prescribed and I became his nurse for several days.

It was in the early spring of 1918 that the American Mobile Typographical Unit of the 29th Engineers made its move to the 7th Division, which was ours. The outfit was equipped with twenty-one large trucks, carrying the accessories to complete this huge printing outfit, which was a late comer in the way of armaments. I am mentioning it to show that the Americans were just beginning to fight when the Armistice was signed, November 11th, 1918. They were just beginning to use the American aviation squadrons. The ground at the flying fields at Pau was literally covered with airplanes of the bombing variety. Had the war lasted only two months longer there would have been more American aerial victories. ''The flying march to Metz and on to Berlin'' was clearly mapped out to the Americans.

CHAPTER VII

American Grit

I wish to relate here an incident of the grit displayed by the Rainbow Division, one of the first to take part in the struggle and among whom were many Indiana buddies. I was told this by a French soldier, who was a great friend of mine. He said: ''We were camped on a line near a large wheat field. We were entrenched along the line facing the Germans several miles away. From their long range field glass they could see us as we would get out of the trenches. We sometimes had to go back of our lines to get supplies and water, a difficult article to get, especially some that was fit to drink during the sultry days.

"Early one morning a group of your boys got together and proposed that they advance upon the Germans in their dug-outs. The French commander objected to this but they had the grit, and away they scampered through the wheat field. They crossed the wire entanglements successfully, but the enemy look-out watch soon discovered them. He phoned back to his gunmen of his find and it was not long until the party was snipped off. Four of the party were dead when picked up, the first Americans of the Rainbow Division to lose their lives in France."

The losses on both sides on the field was appalling. The casualty loss was great, but not as great as if the war had occurred twenty years later. The armament and its attendant noise and confusion were something terrible. The advance made in the huge field pieces, the bombing airplane, the gas bomb plane, the submarine, the radio, telephone, trench fighting, armored tanks, all go to make warfare something terrific. May civilization never again see such deplorable conditions!

When Marshal Joffre and Lord Belfort made their visit to the United States to plead with this country to help them save *civilization* they had just learned of the weakness of the Entente. They learned that Russia and Prussia were not so much in earnest. Marshal Joffre had told this to me at Indianapolis, Indiana, on the day he made his speech at the Memorial Circle. He told me of the weakness of the German army displayed at the "Battle of the Marne." But the Allies needed help and needed it badly. As soon as the United States entered the war the big men of Germany gave up the ghost. I have a copy of a letter taken from the chief of the German General Staff, the first statement made in the early part of 1918, by General Erich von Ludendorff, generalissimo of the entire German military organization.

LUDENDORFF WRITES A LETTER

He said: "Since I was called to the supreme army command August, 1916, there was never a chance of a peace by conciliation or negotiation, as far as I know. The possibility of any such negotiation for peace was never shown to me.

"There are elements among the people of Germany who have been incited to believe that I had been an obstacle to peace when peace by negotiation was possible. These people do not know what they are talking about.

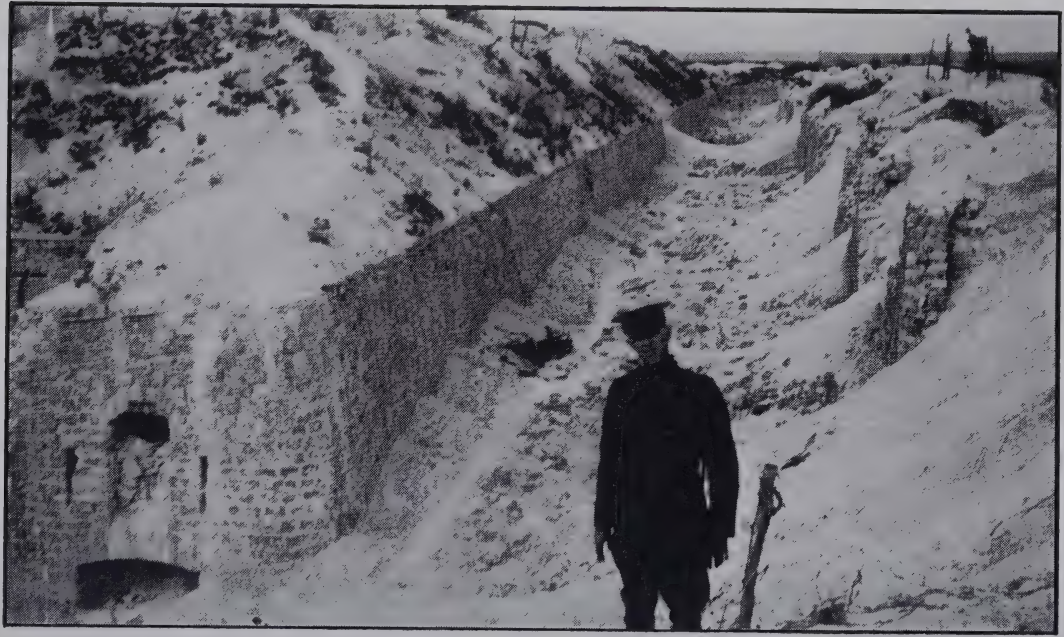
"I am ready at any time to give a full account of my actions and can justify everything I have done. Today I accept the present political situation and am willing to serve my country. The supreme army command knew nothing of President Wilson's intention of proposing peace negotiations. The German emperor on January 9th, 1917, made his decision, which meant ruthless submarine war, and the supreme army command had to obey orders. Any subsequent action on the part of President Wilson could not change the policy designated by the emperor.

"I have never been opposed to peace," said he, "As early as in the spring of 1918, when we were still victoriously invading France and the British were being pushed back to the channel coast, fighting with their 'backs to the wall,' as they said, I could not but confide to party leaders who were close to me that in my opinion it would be best to make peace as quickly as possible.

"I repeated this advice to my party leaders in a more formal manner on June 7th, 1918, that is, at a time when there was no thought of German reverses.

"However, early in July I still hoped it would be possible to force a peace by continuous attacks upon the enemy lines. These hopes were dashed to earth on July 15th, when the tables were turned and German reverses began."

(On July 15th the Germans attempted their fifth and final drive from Vaux to the Champagne, a place that had been taken and retaken seventeen times, and 50,000 lives were lost. They had crossed the Marne river near Dormands and had progressed four miles when attacked by American troops. They drove the German army back across the Marne river and captured many prisoners, including an entire brigade staff. Immediately after this the Germans began their famous



What was left of Fort Pompille after the place had been taken and retaken seventeen times. 50,000 lives were lost here.

retreat towards Germany. By July 20th the American troops had captured 17,000 prisoners and 500 guns on the Aisne-Marne front).

''After the severe defeat of August 8th,'' says von Ludendorff, ''I gave up the last vestige of hope. The morale of our armies was vanishing, and there was no longer any prospect of bringing about a military decision sufficiently favorable to us which would compel a peace.'' (On August 4th, 1918, the American and French troops hurled the Germans across the Vesle river at four points and occupied the town of Fismes. Between July 15th and August 4th the Americans drove Ludendorff's picked divisions back from Belleau to Fismes, a distance of twenty-five miles. On August 8th Americans crossed the Vesle from Braisne to Fismes. Then General Haig, the British general, began his drive from Albert south to Bruches, breaking the German line for nearly twenty-five miles, at some places to a depth of seven miles).

''In the middle of August,'' continues von Ludendorff, ''I advised the German government that there was no more chance of a military victory. I counselled the opening of peace negotiations right there and then. But nothing was done. The government seemed to be for peace, too, but did nothing.

''Early in September the supreme army command again emphasized its readiness, in accepting immediate peace. Any sort of peace would be welcomed, was the decision. But nothing was done. The government did not even notify the party leaders and my advice was kept a secret.

"In the middle of September the German government finally renewed our peace request, or some steps for an immediate beginning of 'peace pourparlers,' and made it very urgent.

"After Bulgaria had deserted us, I made it plain to all who came in contact with me that continuation of fighting was useless, and every day added to the agony, would only mean so much more life and blood needlessly wasted. The situation was so bad I told them that the enemy had even a chance to break through our lines.

"When Mr. Wilson's second answer arrived it became evident that the Entente was determined to humiliate and destroy Germany. Then I began to prepare for a continuation of defensive fighting. Prince Max of Baden, then chancellor of Germany, is quoted as saying the military authorities had been under a delusion up to October 1st, but if he included me in the term of military authorities he was mistaken.

"I was never under any delusion and quite able to prove that much. But I confess I was in favor of fighting to the bitter end when Mr. Wilson's third note arrived and showed that we were expected to consent to an unconditional surrender.

"In my opinion we could have held out a few months longer and by that time might have been able to get more profitable and more honorable peace. At any rate the conditions could not possibly be worse than those our government accepted.

"If our army had been totally defeated and routed, our condition could not have been worse."

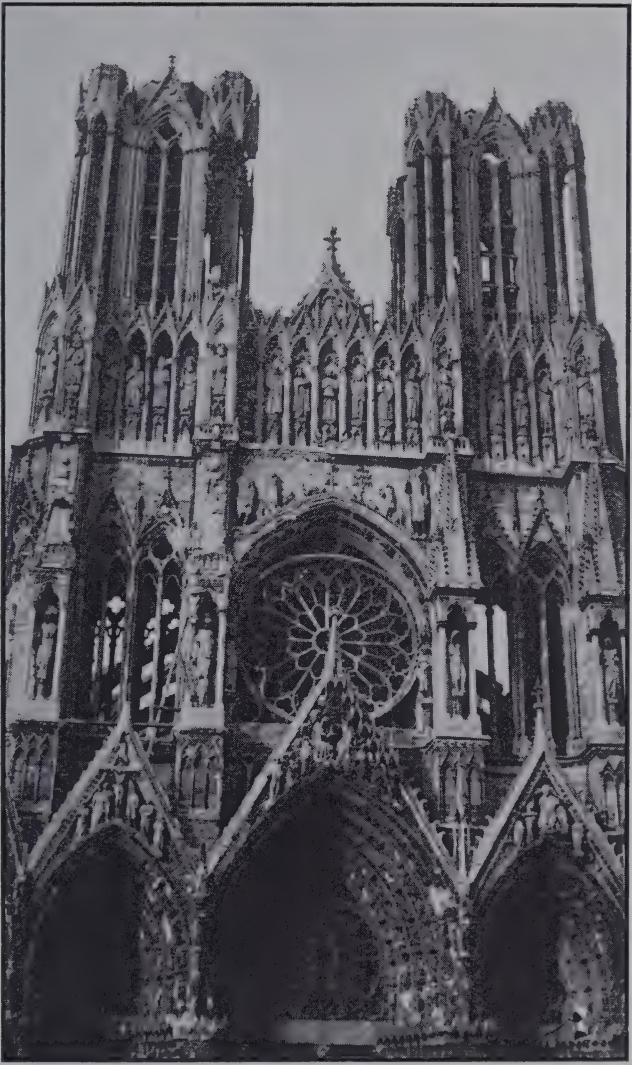
This *modus operandi* was kept up for some time, but it was apparent that the Entente were losing ground. The Teutonic and Magyar nobility were genuinely alarmed in respect to their Socialistic parties which they were fighting against—Russian autocracy. The entrance of the United States into the conflict further perturbed the spirit of the ruling classes of the Central Empire. At this time the young Austrian Emperor Charles addressed a letter to the president of the French Republic, through Prince Sixte of Parma, a relative of the Austrian Empress, pleading for peace and stating that he would promote the "just French claims to Alsace and Lorraine." The claims of Italy were not mentioned in this letter, and nothing was said about Poland, the Baltic provinces, and Russia in general. This letter appeared to have been written with the knowledge of Count Czernin, the then Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who in turn had an understanding in the matter with Baron von Kuhlmann, the then German Minister representing the "enlightened selfishness of German business affairs" against the "bull-necked Prussian caste."

The Allies did not ask for the negotiations with Austria-Hungary, after they saw that the offer to the

Western Powers was not made with the desire for a genuine settlement of European affairs, but in order to profit by the weakness of Russia. Some time afterwards General Smuts went to Switzerland for a discussion with Count Mensdorff, the former Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London, but found that the Hapsburg government was still acting merely as the agent for a German policy of political and economic conquest in the East.

While this correspondence was going on by high officials seeking the termination of the war, fighting on the Fronts was continually going on. Chateau-Thierry, where many of our boys had seen their first lessons of war, was in ruins, but held by the American Marines. Threats were often heard that the German army was planning an assault on the American Front. I will here relate what was told me about an advance made upon our Front near that region. ''The German shelling, that had started shortly after daybreak, grew steadily heavier. That afternoon they concentrated on the small village of Marigny. Shells began to fall within a short distance, but they did not cut the telephone lines. You could see roofs flying and walls tottering in the little town. The church seemed to be the principal target. Presently the steeple toppled over and then the whole building burst into flames.'' The churches of Europe are the principal buildings of the town or city. Many of them were magnificent structures, built to last, some of them built 500 years ago, many of them built of stone. There are a few wood structures. As the churches were

Destruction caused by German bombs at Chateau-Thierry, American headquarters.



Cathedral at Reims, France. Damaged by German bombs.

the principal buildings of the town, many men, women and children congregated there to worship in times of distress. The enemy knowing this marked the church as their target. Two heavy machine guns were sent here from the regimental headquarters. They were placed in position in line with the rifle companies. They were soon set in motion and a barrage laid down. The United States army now had plenty of rations and ammunition.

On that morning the inspection showed the men were absolutely without any signs of nervousness, though they knew the Germans were only about eight hundred yards away and they did not know what minute an attack might start. The Americans were expecting reinforcements from the 6th Marines and the Twenty-third infantry. They had not yet arrived. The shelling became heavier. From time to time some of the men were hit. The German artillery was making it too hot for the two French batteries that were taking the rear, farther up the hill. They broke, limbered up and began to beat it. Then suddenly, as if by magic, there sprung up from the ground a battalion of the French Senegalese troops; they came rushing toward the rear through our left. Only a few had kept their rifles. The way those niggers were running made one think the English channel would be the only barrier to stop them. A little later the French Chasseurs, who had been occupying Les Marn in front of the left of our line, came marching back to the rear. They did not stop to visit with the Americans but marched right on. Just then a

French officer came dashing up in an automobile. He got out at the American P. C. and gave this general order: "Everybody retreat." "Retreat! Retreat!! said the astonished American commander, "We've just got here. We haven't started yet. We are going to carry this line, take care of your line." The French officer departed in his car, going back to his line. The American officers all had heavy motor cars, and few rode on horseback. Thus few horses and saddles were used. However thousands of horses and saddles were dumped in France during this war by the "cost plus 10% men." This was about three o'clock in the afternoon. There was only a single line of soldiers in fox holes, stretched over a two or three-mile front, in all about one thousand men. There was nothing to protect our flanks. Paris was behind the Americans, and the victorious German army in front. Shells falling all around. Some casualty. Our Allies had vanished to the rear. It was suggested that an observation be taken of the enemy's position. This was done. It was taken on the crest of the hill, and from the balloon, and a picture made. This was sent down the line. Every cannoneer knew precisely their exact position.

The German attack was coming. A long way off over those grain fields could be seen thin lines of infantry advancing.

The boys stood their places in the fox holes and in the trenches, watching them come. If you ever had the "creeps," you know how those boys felt. Everything to be done had been done. It is customary of the German army to make an attack in mass formation. Those line were well extended. At least six or eight paces of open space were between the men. There seemed to be four or five lines about sixty feet apart. They wore the coal-scuttle helmet. Their rifles and bayonets were ready. They advanced slowly and steadily. They came within close range. Not a shot had come from our lines. Not a man had tried any wild shooting at long range. Those ten months of drastic discipline and terrific training had done their work. One standing in our pits could see maybe one hundred to two hundred feet down the line in each direction. In their position our boys lay motionless, watching over their rifle-sights.

Finally, when the German front line was about three hundred feet away and our boys could see the white of their eyes, they let them have it. What a halt! Up and down the line one could see the American boys working their rifle bolts. Look where you would for the German line, you couldn't see any. There wasn't any. Killed and wounded, they had crumpled and vanished suddenly in the grain.

Their second line moved steadily and advanced. Their rifles were at their shoulders. They were shooting as they marched. Suddenly they, too, crumpled and vanished. Quickly the remaining Germans broke rank and ran. Back through the wheat field they retreated raggedly and vanished in the distance. It was soon found that our whole line had not been attacked. Only

American boys, stopping for a rest, after a long hike—Argonne field.

our front had been assaulted. They had not attacked our line where we had machine guns, for they had found out in some way where the machine guns were located.

Had that same force attacked either our right or our left, they could have crumped us up and forced us out of our trenches. It was one of the most successful defenses of the war. Our two field guns of long range had done the work. This was the last German attack on the American Front that extended two or three miles. Those watching from the crest of the hill could see that after the first volley fired by Germans all the firing was done by the American troops.

Our casualties were very light. We never found out how many Germans were killed and wounded that day. We took no prisoners. Late that afternoon the Sixth Marine joined with us on our right and the first battalion of the Fifth Marine on our left. The boys slept three nights in fox holes. For more than forty-eight hours they had been under heavy shelling. They had broken up an attack of more than twice their number of trained German veterans of the Twenty-sixth Division of the Royal German Troops, splendid troops, they were, too. The Americans did not know what minute that force would return and attack them again. Yet clear down the line they were laughing, joking and kidding each other, as though it was a training camp instead of the front lines. Yet they had had no food for many days. All that day the shelling continued, though we never caught sight of a German soldier anywhere. Our telephone had been shot out the day before. The French army relieved the Americans that night. We were to leave our trenches and go to a piece of woods called "Bois de Chatel," northeast of "La Voie de Chatel," to act as supports for the First and Third battalions of the Fifth Marines. We were to attack a woods called the "Bois de Belleau," which the Germans not long before had taken from the French and were reported to have fortified strongly. The French Commander Neville said they were placing heavy stress upon the capture of that woods, which he viewed as the key to the whole line. The First and the Third battalion attacks were to be in two sections. One was to start at six in the morning, and the other was to start at five in the afternoon. Some hours after dark the One Hundred and Sixteenth French Infantry came up and took over that four-kilometer front.

About midnight we pulled out and were in position ready for work before dawn. Later we learned that in stopping that German attack at Les Mares farm, our battalion had thrown back the last attack of the great "Chateau-Thierry drive," and had stopped the Germans at the closest point they had ever been to Paris after America entered the war.

On June 8th, 1917, Pope Benedict XV. took up the movement for peace, and the Roman Catholic party in Germany, representing the rich industrial and winegrowing communities of the Rhine valley and the peasantry and land owners of Bavaria and other southern states, engaged in the interest of a general peace. However, Herr Erzberger, a bustling, intriguing politician of the second order in the Roman Catholic party, who worked among the Catholic Trade Unions at home and conducted clerical plots with reactionary Italians from Switzerland, was appointed to promote Catholic peace, together with Herr Sudekum, a Socialist of the Imperial school. Erzberger had to attack the Protestant Junker party, the military dictator, General von Ludendorff, and the men of Grand Admiral von Tirpitz's school. After some negotiations with the Socialists, Radicals, and Liberals, von Ludendorff opened his campaign with a secret sitting of the Grand Committee of the Reichstag on July 8th, 1917. By a very effective and damaging criticisms of the submarine policy of the German High Command, it is said that he shook the confidence of the Reichstag in the entire conduct of the war. His speech had a wonderful effect. Not only did it produce a panic in the Reichstag, but it extended the panic outside to business circles and, what was more, it extended it to the Prussian bureaucracy. The large majority of the three great parties of Germany at that time were the Catholics, Socialists and Radicals. These agreed together on a resolution of peace and a lasting conciliation of nations, without annexation or political, economic or financial oppression.

The German Emperor William, returning to Berlin, summoned the Crown Prince, von Hindenburg and von Ludendorff to a council of state, and for ten days the continuance of the war hung in the balance against the project of peace. This matter, however, was not to be decided by the majority vote of the Reichstag, who succeeded in passing their resolution on July 19th, 1917. It was to be decided by events on the field of battle. There was no doubt that the German Emperor William and his chancellor, Dr. Bethmann-Hollweg, with General von Ludendorff and Field Marshal von Hindenburg, favored the course which Herr Erzberger adopted in the first week in July. Instead of being their opponents, he was their spokesman and agent. The Kaiser published a demand that the dissolution of Prussia should be undertaken at once. The scheme was to appease the Western Powers and the United States by hastily constructing a facade of free government in order to facilitate peace negotiations. However General Ludendorff denies that he was a party to this pact in his letter previously quoted.

When, however, these preparations for practical surrender under certain conditions were being made, the German High Command was in doubt as to just how to meet the double offensive from the east and from the west. In the east was General Bruesiloff attacking with a great force which had been rearmed by the Western Allies with machinery of battle superior to that which the Russians had provided for themselves in other encounters. The British army, under Sir Hubert Gough, had opened a campaign against Flanders Hills, threatening to take all the Flemish coast and the submarine and destroyer bases there. These were the reasons why

Herr Erzberger, with an intrigue of show at political independence, promoted the peace resolution in the Reichstag. But as soon as the Russian offensive ended by the Russian soldiers walking away and selling their guns and the British campaign in Flanders was checked by bad weather and unsuccessful leadership, the peace resolution of the Majority Party vanished like rags of camouflage in a storm of fire. Emperor William had a public interview with von Scheidemann, David, Sedekum and other majority socialists. He convinced them that the practical submarine operations would succeed while the war was being won on land. In more private meetings the German leaders of the Roman Catholic church and the Radical parties were also convinced that the war was still going well for the German people. General von Ludendorff again became the practical dictator, governing the foreign policy through his political department, and after appointing a nominee to the chancellorship in the person of a bureaucrat, Michaelis, he found a better figurehead in Count von Hertling, one of the Roman Catholic party.

Germany's desire for peace on terms without victory which began the first week of July, 1917, as proposed by von Ludendorff, had undoubtedly been genuine at the time it was given out. But when, however, the new Russian armies broke in the wildest and most complete of moral disasters, no responsible body of German leaders had the slightest idea of quitting the struggle. Peace negotiations were indeed continued to November 11th,

1918. There was a meeting of friendly and hostile financiers at Bern, Switzerland, in July, 1918. They were tired of the war and proposed that France, Italy, and Great Britain be released at the expense of Russia. Russia would have been the goat.

On August 1st, 1917, Pope Benedict XV. again made a peace proposal, condemning the war in the highest terms as a useless massacre, and suggesting that Germany should give Belgium another scrap of paper, guaranteeing her political and economic independence. Then the German government sent, through a neutral diplomatic channel, a message that they would be glad to open negotiations for peace with Great Britain. Mr. Arthur Belfour, England's Foreign Secretary of State, informed the Allied and Associated Powers of the communication received. He replied to Germany that he was prepared to receive any communications proposing peace, so the British cabinet could discuss it with its Allies.

When on November 28th, 1917, the Bolshevist leaders of Russia opened parley for peace with the Central Powers, for an armistice and treaty of peace, there followed a grand political comedy, in the course of which the British and American governments were duped to some extent. The German and Austrian Foreign Secretaries, Baron von Kuhlmann and Count Czernin, were bent on making the negotiations with the Bolshevists, South Russians, and the Polls a trap for catching the Allies. They professed to be ready to agree to a general peace without annexation or indemnities, but Russian delegates interrupted negotiations for ten days from December 25th, 1917, to January 4th, 1918, in order that all belligerent nations would have the opportunity of taking part in the Brest-Litovsk proceedings for ending the war.

The world was full of proposals for peace at any terms. Many treacherous terms were offered. One of these was the remarkable intrigue on the part of the German power and its Bolshevist agents in Russia to alarm the former leader of the British House of Lords, Lord Lansdowne, in order to induce him to write and agitate a peace by compromise with the German government. As a former secretary of foreign affairs, leader of the Second Chamber, and chief of the Unionist party, Lord Lansdowne was a man of much influence. His influence and action, however, was so contrary to the general policy of the nation that it lost him all power and authority and he fell into insignificance. He was moved by the fear of general spread of Bolshevism, one of the principal means of secret maneuvers used by the Teutons and Magyars. Having promoted, financed, and directed the Bolshevist movement, the governor of Central Empires employed this engine of intrigue directly in conquering Russia and indirectly in attempting to dismay the leading men of the Allied nations. Lord Lansdowne earned the peculiar distinction of being practically the only man of importance in the great alliance who fell before the class intrigues of the enemy.

The Prime Minister of Great Britain, Lloyd George, and the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, were somewhat impressed by the Brest-Litovsk comedy. Both Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson thought that Lenin, Trotsky, Redke and scores of persons with German names and Russian aliases, were genuinely perturbed by the heavy terms imposed by the German and Austrian governments. Finally when all pretense of a peace in accordance with the Reichstag resolution was lifted, and the creatures in German pay were called to account by their masters, it was soon seen that Russia was being dissolved into warring chaos. From her were detached Finland, Esthonia, Courland and Lithuania, part of white Russia, and the rich wheat lands and coal fields of southern Russia. Poland was robbed of settled Polish territory and the Baltic peasantry was placed under the re-inforced tyranny of their German barons, the same treatment as we Americans would have received had the Germans been successful in their war for world domination. A territory with a population of 66,000,000 persons, having an area of 600,000 square miles, was detached from Russia in the peace pact ''without annexations and indemnities.'' All the available food supplies in southern Russia were taken by force from the peasantry, great raiding parties of German and Austrian cavalry being used for the purpose. Furthermore, measures were taken by Bolshevists acting under German orders, to destroy the machinery in Russian factories in order to place Russia in absolute dependence upon German manufacturers, thus further promoting the Teutonic exploitation of all territories of the old Russian Empire.

Such were the circumstances in which President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George of England began the vain endeavors to convince the Bolshevists of Russia and the German and Austro-Hungarian peoples that a lasting general peace could be arranged upon fair terms. On January 5th, 1918, in an address to the Trade Unionists of the World, Premier Lloyd George published his peace terms. Among them were included the independence of Belgium, Serbia, and Montenegro; the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France; the independence of Poland; home rule for the Slav races of Austria-Hungary; the restoration of Italian and Rumanian territory to Italy and Rumania; the Turkish possession of Constantinople and internationalism of the Dardanelles; recognition of the nationality of Arabia, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine; the placing of German colonies under administration acceptable to the natives; reparation for injuries done in violation of international law, and establishment of a League of Nations as proposed by President Wilson.

By way of explanation let me say that I am giving the readers of my history of the World War this information to strengthen my theory that the real cause of this struggle was *World Domination.* Much of this information comes to you first hand, from clippings furnished me by Marshal Joffre and M. Clemenceau, who were my intimate friends during my stay in Paris.

Marshal Joffre in Full Military Uniform.

Many a time in the lobby of the Crillion Hotel "the Tiger," as M. Clemenceau was called, would recognize me in a crowd and exclaim: "Y' venire mons cher gros American." (There comes my dear big American). I was then six feet two in height, weighed about two hundred pounds and could be distinguished easily from the other interpreters.

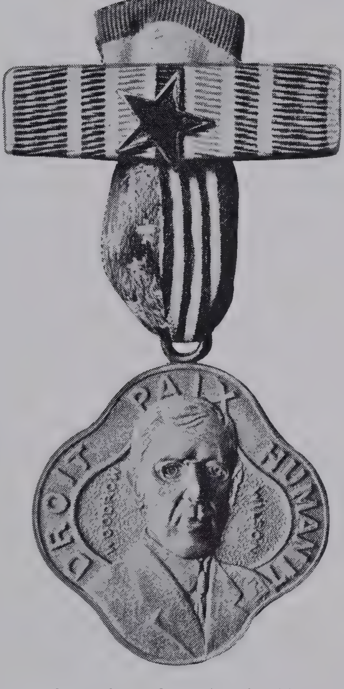
Marshall Joffre and M. Clemenceau were often together in their hotel and it was a great pleasure to hear them argue the questions of war. Marshall Joffre often related his experiences, especially that of the "Battle on the Marne River," that saved the day for France. He would tell of the close calls that were made by the German command to trap him, and how gayly he would tell how he escaped.

On the 4th of July, 1918, Clemenceau pinned a bronze medal, purchased by Marshal Joffre, on the breast of my uniform to show the honor and esteem they had for the American people. It is still treasured — a bronze picture of President Wilson, having a tri-color background. Inscribed thereon is: "Droit Paix Humanite, Woodrow Wilson", (Justice, Peace, Humanity, Woodrow Wilson).

CHAPTER VIII

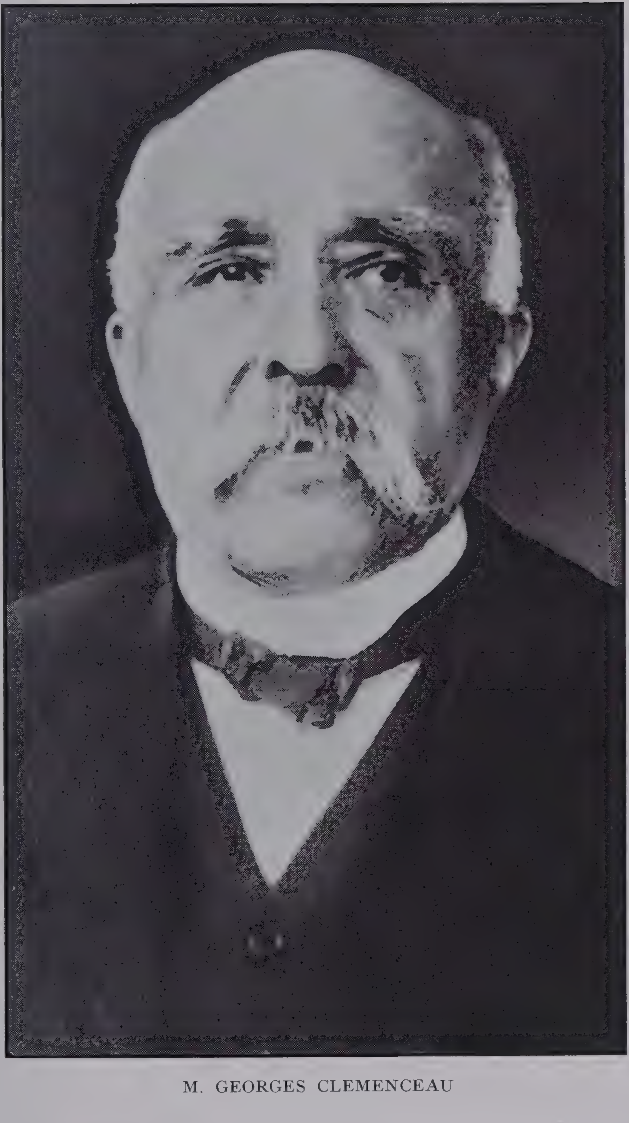
A Short Biography of M. Clemenceau, the Tiger and Lover of France

The following is a very personal resume of M. Clemenceau's life, gathered while with him in Paris: Georges



This bronze medal was donated to the writer by his cousin, Marshal Joseph Joffre, and presented by Georges Clemenceau, as a token of esteem due the American people. Presented at Paris, July 4th, 1919.

was born September 28th, 1841, in a little town in Brittany in Northwestern France. His father, Jacobin, was a physician who cared more for the health of the poor and suffering than he did for the fees of his toil. He was a staunch Republican whose days were embittered by seeing his country fall into the hands of Napoleon III, as Victor Hugo styled the upstart ruler of the Second Empire. He loved truth and square dealing, a policy that Napoleon and his followers did not follow. In his leisure moments when he was not busy pondering over some weighty problems concerning the government of France or considering the wonders of the universe, for he was a great lover of nature, he was trying to catch bits of beauty to gladden his mind. The intense soul of his father, who hated tyranny and shams no less fiercely than he loved the simple human heritage of quiet work and happy play of mind and heart, lighted kindred fires in the spirit of his son Georges. When only ten years old his tender nature was moved to the depth by seeing his father led off, handcuffed, to prison for having protested against the tyrannies of the form of government as conducted under the ruling of Little Napoleon. The boy threw his arms about his father, whispering ''Father, some day I will avenge this mistreatment of you.'' ''If you really want to accomplish that you will have to *work*,'' said the father, who was unable to return the embrace of his son, on account of the shackles on his wrists. The father could not discover, by his most searching look, any particularly promising qualities in



M. GEORGES CLEMENCEAU

his son. He was not a good scholar; at the age of sixteen he knew little more than a lad of ten. However he had one subject that he showed real enthusiasm about and that was *reading*. He was anxious to learn English. He had a book of "Robinson Crusoe" and was very desirous to know the whole story. Then when he was about sixteen, the boy had a sudden awakening. It seemed, as in many other instances, as if all at once the windows of his mind were thrown open, and the sunshine of a world of interests came pouring in to warm and stimulate him. He began to read everything he could get. The days were not long enough for all the splendid possibilities. He could do no better than to follow in the footsteps of his large-hearted, keen-minded father. He took up the study of medicine, but did not do this to the exclusion of all else. He had time for books and friends; there was time for strolls about Paris, and on a Sunday morning, for real wandering out beyond the streets into the open country, studying nature.

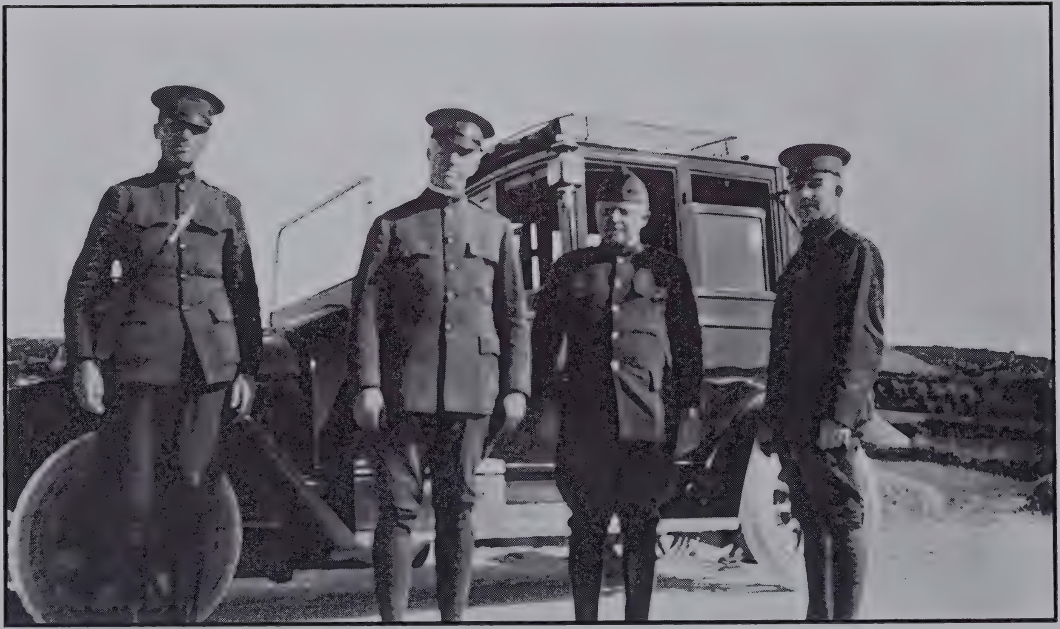
One day the thought came to him that he should defy the wicked rule of the kings, especially that of France. That was a strenuous undertaking. His desire was to avenge his father and all other lovers of liberty. His thoughts began to formulate. He finally decided the best way was to purchase a news press and by its use search out others of like ideas. He bought the "Le Travail," a weekly paper of small circulation. "Travail" means work. Did he recall his father's admonition, when he told his son that it would take "*work*" and much "*work*" to avenge the wrong inflicted upon him? It seemed that this little sheet was not such a trifling "affair" that it could be ignored by the ruling party, for its landed the champion of human rights in prison. After a brief imprisonment, we find this disciple of medicine for the human body and democracy for the body politic had once more called down upon his rash head the wrath of the imperial police by shouting, "*Vive la Republique*" from a point of vantage on an avenue of Paris when the gay city was celebrating one of the anniversaries of the fete-loving Second Empire. He was told, "If you like a republic so much more, why don't you go to America?" Georges was the oldest of eleven children, and could expect little financial help from home. In brief, young Clemenceau, finding himself practically an exile, took the opportunity offered and came to the United States. He carried a letter of introduction to the noted Horace Greeley. He arrived soon after the close of the Civil War and at once showed an alert interest in the conditions resulting from the war. Going to New York in 1865, he put out his doctor's shingle, and while waiting for a chance to practice, wrote "Le Temps," a series of articles at once brisk and thoughtful, describing phases of the social and political life of America. He said that he spent more time in the Astor library than in his office waiting for sick customers. He made the acquaintance of some young ladies who attended a young ladies' seminary at Stamford, Connecticut, in whom he took an especial interest for two reason. First, he was sorely in need of an income, and here was a chance to make some money. He gave them instructions in French. Second, he needed friends and enjoyed their company. It meant for the young ladies a series of talks on French literature and conversations with a professor who could be witty and fascinating in two languages. Clemenceau was then a good horseback rider. So were the girls. That was certainly the time when one might have seen a smile on the face of ''the Tiger.'' He returned to Montmartre, France, his native home in 1870, and with him took his bride, a student at the seminary. On his arrival home, his friends elected him to the mayoralty of Montmartre. Clemenceau did not ask, ''What is there in it for me?'' nor did he follow the American slogan of ''Get all you can, and can all you get.'' He had no thought of himself—but always considered his people. Sometimes he was almost alone in the fight for right; this gained him the name of ''the Tiger.'' In 1870-71 he saw his beloved country lose Alsace and Lorraine. Bitterly, desperately he opposed the treaty that gave this sacred soil of France into the keeping of Germany. In 1875 he was chosen president of the Municipal Council, and in the following year was elected a member of the Chamber of Deputies. From that time on he was the determined and fearless leader of the most advanced party of the French government. He printed and controlled a number of newspapers, ''La Justice,'' ''L'Aurore,'' and later ''L'Homme Libre,'' which were read for the keen, direct criticisms and interpretations of the vital issues of the moment, given in his strong editorials. His influence through his speeches and debates, and with the wider public who clung to his printed words, was due to the clear-cut, positive character of all he said. He never hedged, qualified, nor veiled his statements with half-negation. He attacked the victims of his censure without fear or mercy when contradicted. The people came to know and feel that he was fearless because he loved France better than any consideration of self-interest, that he dared everything in her service. Clemenceau, ''the tiger of politics,'' was the watch-dog of France. In 1906, he was appointed Minister of the Interior, and in the same year Prime Minister. For the moment his enemies were silenced. The call came directly from the people. In the month of November, 1917, when the new Premier arose to make his statement in the Chamber of Deputies, it seemed as if the country was ready to topple over. ''I am almost afraid to think what is expected of me. But I mean to win.'' He put his two papers to work. ''L'Homme Libre'' (The Free Man) he changed to ''L'Homme Enchaine'' (The Man in Chains). ''La Liberte'' (Liberty) was the other paper to be used as a weapon in the fight for his liberal ideas. There were, of course, some who questioned and attacked the articles of the new Premier. It was not long before the people supported his vigorous, fearless policy and his genius for his administration brought results that justified the truth and faith of the people and again silenced his political enemies.

This short sketch of his life explains how M. Clemenceau became the idolized leader of the French people in the most trying days of the World War.

CHAPTER IX

The Glad Hand!

At the time of our going over there, we were received with the greatest and most lavish courtesy in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Spain, we Americans were made the guests of the land. Of course they were after our money, if we had any. Among my letters written home is one concerning this hospitality, a part of which reads: "The Europeans have a very cordial feeling toward Americans and in a way idolize our institutions, our accomplishments and our country. Everywhere you go, Americans are welcome, they will cover you with confetti while walking their streets and there is always a cry for American capital and initiative, and Europe, indeed, is still a land of golden opportunities. I agree with them, and I can assure you that you will be delighted with the friendly feeling and the cordial reception that you will receive from these people who are so much like us in life and ideals. Europe is beautiful, satisfying and exciting. It gets you, it grips you, and it holds you, and should you journey there the memories and romance of the Old World will live with you forever." (This was written to C. M. Niezer, Fort Wayne, Indiana, to whom I latter gave a French letter of introduction to Marshal Joffre during a visit he made to Europe).



Detailed to search for missing airplane near Pau, France.

When we were making arrangements to return home, I noticed that we were slighted, that the attention granted us had suddenly changed. It is surprising how quickly the attitude and affection of a nation can change. The American could easily be distinguished from all others by their uniforms. I could tell that something was wrong, some question had not been favored by the American delegation at the Peace Conference, consequently Americans were receiving blunt treatment. I will relate one instance of this nature. All the railroads in France are operated by the government. Many women were engaged in railroading during the war. Traffic was demoralized. Trains did not run on schedule time. An officer and myself were detailed to the flying field of Pau, to check up on some American airplanes. We took passage on the limited train out of Paris. At about 10:00 o'clock A. M. a lady porter came to take our order for luncheon, and I asked what time the meal would be served. She replied the first call would be made at 11:30 A. M. and the second call at 12:00. We waited and waited, but no call was made. At 1:00 P. M. we went into the diner but were told we were too late, that dinner was over, although we saw French officers eating at the tables. Our American spunk went up, and what I told the waiter in French was plenty! Useless to say, we repaired to our compartment, ransacked our knapsacks, and there found a can of "corn willie," some cookies and a can of American raw tomatoes, furnished us by Uncle Sam. We made a square meal of this and closed it with a bottle of *vien blanc*

Lost airplane found on French aviation field near Pau, France.

which my fellow officer had by mistake purchased on the way. We both had a capital dinner without the help of a dining car. Many were the arguments I had after this with landlords at our hotels. I will have more about the treatment given Americans later.

CHAPTER X

Our Arrival in Paris for the Peace Conference

We arrived in Paris from Havre Monday, January 6th, 1919, and were met by a committee at the Gare du Nord. We, with our luggage, were soon whizzed to our respective hotels. The streets were still very poorly lighted, the result of the war, for during the time of bombardments, before the Armistice, all the cities and towns along the fronts were kept in darkness. The next morning found me an early riser, in fact I had had four hours sleep. After breakfast, consisting of a loaf of rye bread three feet long, for four of us, and some coffee and some good cheese, (we had to beg the landlady for some milk and sugar for our coffee; they said these were articles of luxury), I reported to headquarters at 16 Place de la Madeline, where I relieved myself of my charge, as chaperon, and received orders.

I had made arrangements to meet Marshal Joffre and from that time on was kept busy among dignitaries of the world. My cousin soon made me acquainted with

Quay 'd Orsay, Paris, where Peace Conference was held. Treaty was signed in Mirror Palace, Versailles.

M. Clemenceau, M. Jules Cambon, M. Andre Tardieu and others. M. Clemenceau and Marshal Joffe were intimate friends, and were often found together. This gave me a prestige over other interpreters.

I was soon given a red traveling card that permitted me to go everywhere. Active preparations for distinguished guests were being made at the Quay d' Orsay, the meeting place for the peace conference. President Wilson had arrived a few days before from a cruise to Italy. M. Clemenceau had returned after a few weeks' vacation in the Vendee district, his home. He had been welcomed back to Paris at the Gare Montparnasse, by M. Louis Nail, Minister of Justic; M. Pams, Minister of Interior and M. Georges Leygues, Minister of Marine. A delegation of ladies belonging to the Croix-Veste Society presented "the Tiger" a basket of beautiful roses, as he alighted from the train. (I mention this to show the love and respect bestowed the Prime Minister of France at that time).

The Hotel de Crillion was to be the headquarters of most of the delegates to the Peace Conference, which was held in the great dining room on the ground floor of the Quay 'd Orsay. The room had a seating capacity of one hundred and fifty persons; adjoining rooms had been made ready to receive the various committees and sub-committees. The quarters of the secretaries were on the second floor. My red working card and badge permitted me to enter any of these committee rooms.

Hotel de Crillion, headquarters for Peace Conference delegates.

CHAPTER XI

All Work and No Play Makes Jack a Dull Boy

The American Welfare Workers aimed to place within the reach of the American soldiers such entertainments as play "bouts" and various games to dissipate their minds of home sickness. On the second night of my stay in Paris I was called to be one of the ushers to a "bout" to be given under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus. *The New York Herald* in its Paris edition of January 9th carried this announcement on its front page: "Big Boxing Show in Paris Tonight; Don't Miss It. Tonight's the night, boys, for the big Paris boxing tournament organized by the Knights of Columbus in the Cinema des Arts Hall, 325 rue Saint Martin. Twelve bouts, mostly Franco-American, are on the card and a grand night's sport may be anticipated. There will also be a lively musical program, including jazz band performances. Mr. Parnell Egan and others will sing. Cigarets will be freely distributed to the doughboys. Proceedings begin at 8:00 o'clock sharp."

It appears that the discipline at former bouts had not been the best. So the manager decided to select two strong men for the ushers of the center aisle. Reservations had been made by card to officers. Heretofore some of the privates were bound to get in these front seats.

My job, as usher, was to keep them for officers. James J. Carey, also six foot two, of New York City, was selected for my assistant. Needless to say there were no rushes that night.

The same paper, in its next day's issue, said:

"Americans Winners in Most of K. of C. Bouts. French Show Science, and One Match Brings Audience to Feet with Enthusiasm.

"Americans carried off the honors in the boxing bouts at the Knights of Columbus Hall last night, though the French opponents put up some lively fighting, and in one case brought the crowd to its feet with enthusiasm.

"The matches were among the best seen thus far and the crowd a record one.

"Summaries: Sergeant Bowles was defeated by Cam in a spirited match which went the full four rounds.

"The match between Joe Tierney, New Jersey, and Roarette, French, was declared contested, Jack Lewis, of the 102nd Ammunition Train, 27th Division, being the referee. One judge decided for Tierney, the other for Roarette. The referee having the deciding vote, gave the contest to Tierney.

"The bout between Miller, American, and Roger, French, took the audience off its feet. So enthusiastic did it become that many hats and coats were thrown into the air. The Frenchman won after a stubborn combat.

"Kid Taylor, Brooklyn, and Dupre fought evenly during the three rounds, when Taylor cut loose in the last and got the verdict on points.

"Siegel, Boston, 301 Infantry, hit his opponent, Bonroy, fully fifty times with a straight left and won easily on points.

"Benny Allen, New York, U. S. Ambulance Corps, knocked down Bora in the third and fourth rounds, but notwithstanding this the Frenchman showed 'ability' and gameness and the judges declared the contest a draw.

"Gregoire was knocked down in the first round by 'Kid' Green with a well directed left. The Frenchman retaliated by doing the same thing to Green twice in the second round. In the third Green received a hard one which put him out.

"Gene Tunney, of New York, defeated 'Knockout' Marchand, France, in the second round. It was a clean-cut, though short victory, and one of the best fights of the evening."

There also was given an exhibition prize fight between the "two midget brothers" of the city, which was most amusing. They scampered on a canvas and a shower of French coins were thrown at them. Needless to say, they paid more attention to the coins than to the fighting.

CHAPTER XII

The Peace Conference

First Session. On the first day of the peace conference were discussed the questions of extension of the armistice, the naval clauses, financial clauses, conditions of supply and provisions for the restitution of the material and machinery stolen from France and Belgium by the Germans. Besides the military advisers, Marshal Foch, Sir Henry Wilson, of England; General Bliss, of United States Army, there were Messrs. Klotz, Legues, Clementel, Loucheur of France and Herbert Hoover, of the American Food Commission, who were called in for advice on the different measures taken up that day, Monday.

Second Session, the Food Question. At the second day's session the Supreme Council of Supply and Relief agreed that the supply of food for Europe made it indispensable that the German shipping should be placed at the disposal of the associated governments. The Council was also of the opinion that if it were expedient there should be provided an additional supply of food in Germany, before the next harvest be gathered. Limited supplies were available for this purpose without in any way affecting the priority of supply which had to be secured for the Allied, liberated and neutral countries.

Thus the different questions were taken up from day to day—a memorandum made and placed on records for that purpose by the secretaries.

The prominent men who prepared the peace pact for the world were: Georges Clemenceau, Andre Tarieu, S. Pichon, Marshal Joseph Joffre, Jules Cambon, and Louis L. Klotz, of France; President Woodrow Wilson, Robert Lansing, Colonel Edward H. House, General Tascar H. Bliss and Henry White, of the United States; Premier Lord Lloyd George, Mr. Hughes, Boner Law, A. J. Balfour, G. N. Barns, of England; Signor Orlando, Baronne Sonnino, Benito Mussolini and Marchese Salvago Raggi, of Italy; Emile Vandervelde, Paul Hymans, of Belgium; Mr. Politis and Athes Romanos, of Greece; Mr. Pashish and Mr. Vesnitch, of Servia. Other delegates there did not have much prominence. Brazil later sent her representatives, and some came from minor countries, but none took an active part in the proceedings. French and English were the only languages used in matters pertaining to the treaty, and my assistance of translation was in demand everywhere in the conference.

It appears that the long duration of the war had drained the food supply of Europe. Many of the countries were on the verge of starvation, and the first attention of the conference was to save the people from famine. The four powers, representing the Supreme Council of Supply and Food, consisting of the United States, England, France and Italy, participated in the financial arrangements for the feeding of Europe. At the meeting of the council on Monday at the French Ministry of Commerce, this was arranged. A resolution was passed providing for the appointment of a committee representative of the four associated governments to supervise certain districts of Europe where food was to be distributed. The council reported that there was a sufficient world supply of food available to meet the needs in Allied and liberated territories and that all possible steps were being taken to ascertain and meet them and to solve the financial and transportation problem.

Consideration was given at the council's meeting to the position of neutrals in the matter of food supplies, and to that of Bulgaria. Representatives of the associated governments were nominated to deal with the question of the use of German shipping facilities for the transport of food supplies.

Everyone was required to get bread tickets before he could get bread at the restaurants and hotels. Milk, butter, cheese and sugar were scarce articles for the average man.

The French nobility did not suffer for provisions, many dinners and receptions were tendered the American delegates. President and Mrs. Wilson came in for their share of courtesies shown. The French Chamber of Deputies, at the suggestion of Maurice Dawmour, supported by a large number of his fellow-deputies, gave

President and Mrs. Wilson a reception at a public sitting of the assembly. The ceremony, which gave President Wilson the right of the floor of the Chamber of Deputies, notwithstanding the stringent terms of Article 136 of the Chamber's codified rules, were preceded by a reception held in honor of President and Mrs. Wilson by Paul Deschanel, President of the Chamber, in his palatial official residence adjoining the assembly hall. President Wilson was entertained at a formal *dejeuner* (breakfast) by the French senate on the following Monday. In an address, Maurice Dawmour dwelt eloquently upon the reasons which led the French parliamentary authorities to throw open all doors to President Wilson as a tribute of gratitude to the whole American nation as well as to the President himself. Delegate Dawmour recalled how Marshal Joffre and M. Viviani were welcomed both in the Senate and in the House of Representatives when they came to Washington in 1916, although Congressional rules regarding the admission of strangers to the privileges of the floor are almost as precise as the regulations of the Chamber of Deputies which says: "Under no pretext can any stranger enter the enclosure of deputies when they are sitting."

During all this time the German government was holding preliminary conferences in Berlin, where about 400 delegates had gathered. Constant communications were maintained between Paris and Berlin; scheming German tactics were rife; Germany was determined to have things her way. Finally they yielded, but time tells that they did not keep their word and again their treaty signed was but a scrap of paper.

All peace conference discussions were to be kept secret. Only such information as was promulgated by a committee of newspaper men was made public. This committee, composed of representatives of the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan, was authorized to publish just such news as the conference decided could be made public; all the delegates, secretaries and interpreters were sworn to secrecy. The alternative remaining for the world was to get such filtration as would inevitably reach the world in more or less garbled form through inside tips to favored newspaper men or await the memoirs of the great statesmen there assembled.

There were twenty-eight separate nations at the peace table, represented by sixty-two delegates. The size of the Peace Congress alone insured illuminating sidelights to escape from the Quay 'd Orsay. This was particularly true in case of controversies arising on disputed points and the desire of disgruntled elements to get a hearing before the world, after they had met defeat on particular issues in the conference. The unfortunate part of such information was that it inevitably would be biased and subjected to faulty interpretation. One such controversy had already arisen regarding the participation of Serbia. Arguments concerning delegates followed. It was decided to admit only delegates of the kingdom of Serbia and not those of the kingdoms of the Sarbs, Croats and Slovanes, which had been formed by union of Serbia with the Yugo-Slav provinces of the late Austro-Hungarian monarchy. On another occasion Italy demanded her rights regarding Fiume, Bannito Mussolini, a young Italian, made his memorable proclamation when he said: "Sanapa la loi con demond; sa la justice." (It is not law that we demand; it is justice). At this time no representation from Russia had been decided upon. M. Sazonoff had only just then been designated by that government to look after its affairs at the conference. M. Sazonoff was the Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Siberian government at Omsk.

It was finally settled that the following representation should be recognized in the conference: The United States of America, the British Empire, France, Italy, and Japan, allowed five representatives each; the British Dominions, consisting of Canada, Australia, South Africa and India, two delegates; one delegate for New Zealand, these in addition to the five allowed the British Empire; Brazil had three delegates; Belgium, China, Greece, Poland, Portugal, the Czecho-Slovak Republic, Roumania, Serbia, two delegates each; Panama, Nicaragua, Liberia, Honduras, Haiti, Guatemaula and Cuba, one delegate.

The first full session of the conference was held on Saturday at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon. They usually were slow to convene, but continued till early in the morning, regardless of the day, Sunday being no exception. Delegates of all the governments associated against the Central Powers in the war were present to attend this preliminary meeting at the French Foreign Office. The date had been fixed by the Supreme War Council. It was the first time that Japan had been represented. Viscount Chinda, then the Japanese Ambassador in London, and Mr. Matsui, Japanese Ambassador in Paris, were selected by Japan to represent that nation at the conference. They afterward attended all the meetings with the representatives of the four other great powers, France, Great Britain, the United States, and Italy, making it the great five powers. (My position was at the head of the interpreters' table). The following day the meeting of this Supreme War Council met at 10:30 in the morning. At the beginning of these meetings the delegates were prompt in their attendance, but as the conference grew older they sometimes were very slow in appearing at the meetings.

FRENCH SHIP OWNERS MADE APPEAL TO PRESIDENT WILSON

It did not take the insight of a seer to detect the cuteness of this people. The French Naval League, comprised of an equal number of representatives of naval and marine corporation interests, appealed to President Wilson for help. They asked the President to intervene for: First, the attribution to France of 930,000 tons of German and Austria-Hungarian shipping to replace that destroyed by the enemy; second, the attribution of the iron industry of German coal at a price permitting of the construction of French shipping on equal terms with other countries; third, the possibility for French ship owners to purchase immediately a million tons of shipping from England on conditions acceptable to British shipping interests and a similar amount from America; fourth, the opening of American shipyards to French ship owners for the immediate construction of two million tons of cargo steamers, with authorization to transfer the flag to them.

JAPAN OPPOSES CHINA

Six leading Chinese statesmen came to Paris for the purpose of securing recognition and representation in the Peace Conference. Japan opposed their pleading. Three of these six men, Wellington Koo, Alfred Tze and C. T. Wang, had received their education at American universities and understood the English language, but when French was spoken they were forced to depend upon an interpreter. They soon called upon my service and I was often with them. Wellington Koo was the Chinese Minister in Washington; Alfred Tze was the Chinese Minister in London, and C. T. Wang was probably the best known and one of the most progressive leaders of Southern China. Liu Chang-Hsiang, the Chinese Foreign Minister, headed the Chinese delegation in Paris. Hu Wei-Tch, who was the Minister to France, had represented his government in Paris since early in the war, but had not made his appearance at the conference until he came with these men.

CHINESE-JAPANESE CONTROVERSY

One of the mooted questions in the controversy between Japan and China was the disposal of Kiao-Chow, with its harbor of Tsing-Tau, which the Japanese in 1914 took from the Germans. The ousting of the Germans from their most important colony in the Far East was achieved with very little difficulty by the Japanese army and navy. Since 1914 the Japanese have held the great strategic harbor of the Shantung peninsula, and it has been generally understood that Japan intended as now shown to establish herself at this point on the Chinese coast. The capture of Kiao-Chou was followed early in 1915 by the famous twenty-one articles presented by Japan to China in the form of an ultimatum. They laid down a program of Japanese penetration in China and Japanese participation in Chinese affairs which the Peking government protested against vigorously at the conference, but which was accepted with some modification later.

(I am giving you only a general outline of the work taken up by the Peace Conference which lasted from early in January until the latter part of the month of June, 1919. There were a thousand and one questions taken up, discussed and some of these are to this day as live as they were then).

M. Georges Clemenceau presided at all meetings of the Peace Conference and was often seen in company of President Wilson.

M. Clemenceau told me of an incident that occurred in 1910 when sickness alone kept him from meeting Woodrow Wilson. After the fall of his ministry in France in that year he was invited to give English lectures in Buenos Aires, South America. It was proposed that "the Tiger" stop at New York on his way home and reproduce these lectures in the United States. A friend of Mr. Wilson who knew M. Clemenceau asked Woodrow if he would preside at the first of these lectures in New York City and present M. Clemenceau to the American public. M. Clemenceau showed me a letter dated March 21st, 1910, written from the office of the president of Princeton University, accepting the proposition with a pleasant word for the distinguished Senator Clemenceau. Owing to sudden illness M. Clemenceau had to cancel the dates of his appointments. He had been in the United States in 1869, when he taught French and learned to speak the English language fluently. As events happened M. Clemenceau and President Woodrow Wilson met for the first time at the Gare du Bois de Boulogne on the latter's arrival in France in January, 1919.

CHAPTER XIII

Articles of Peace

At the conference it took several weeks before anything resembling order was manifested. The assembly was large. Many questions were proposed, and some extremely difficult to handle. After everything had been discussed pro and con, all arguments settled or thrown out entirely, the entire proceedings were recorded in what was called the Peace Pact. President Wilson was chosen to read this to the assembled dignitaries.

The full statue of the assemblage was to be given out to the world. The League of Nations had been brought into being by efforts of the delegates of fourteen nations under President Wilson's lead. President Wilson was the embodiment of the spirit of America, as he lived through the greatest hour of his life.

PRESIDENT WILSON READS THE RULES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

President Wilson's big hour had come. It was the climax of the weeks he had spent in Europe. On the afternoon of that memorable February day, with a full session of the Peace Conference at the Quay 'd Orsay, when the plan for the League of Nations was disclosed in its entirety, there was no show of emotion when the President of the United States read this solemn epoch-making instrument. It is certain that the President was conscious to the full of the pregnancy of the occasion in his own career and its place in history, and it was curious to note the demeanor of the man. No one else could have surpassed him for casualness, for matter-of-factness, for the total absence of emotional display of any sort. I could see that during the time of more than an hour when he was on his feet addressing the conference, only once or twice did his voice touch the deeper, vibrant cords of feeling; not once did he cease to give the impression of a person about the most usual business, and he was always unmistakably just the American, embodiment in manner, perhaps, of an average workaday American. It was he who gave the tone to the world event of that day, and that tone was dramatic only in its lack of drama, in its utter simplicity. This was all noticed from the very first.

We, the secretaries, after having been held in leash for three-quarters of an hour in an adjoining chamber, were finally loosed into the famous clock room, all red and gold and aglitter against the dull background of the day, with innumerable tiny lights mounted upon giant candelabra hung from the ceiling and dazzling with their panoplies of cube-shaped glass. Hardly had we scrambled in before we were conscious of a mild commotion in the far side of the big room. The scene by that time was well set. M. Clemenceau, seemingly somewhat old and tired, but giving one the sense nevertheless of surging thoughts, palpitating ideas, had arrived and went to the head of the conference table, where the greatest dignitaries of the whole world at that time were sitting. He sat in a chair of marvelous, ancient workmanship, so large he was almost buried in its depths. Mr. Balfour, too, had come, ruddy as any beef-fed Britisher, but infinitely distinguished, scholarly and with a world-wise, world-weary look in his eyes. He was seated, as calm as any sphinx, with gaze turned ceilingward. The Japanese delegates were in their places, very serious and business-like, very formally attired. So, too, with their turbans, came Emir Feisal and M. Haidar from Hedjas. They came more to my observation, owing to my acquaintance from working with them the past few days, in making or attempting to make their peace with the Chinese delegates. Most indubitably the ''emissaries of the world'' had assembled! Then there came that slight commotion, and we saw that the President of the United States had inconspicuously and quietly made his entrance through a hardly noticed side door and was slowly working his way through many hand-shakings all the way up the room. M. Clemenceau came forward a few steps to greet him, and Mr. Balfour, who in the absence of Premier Lloyd George headed the British delegation, rose and bowed. One of our secretaries laid a big black dispatch-case before Mr. Wilson which he opened, fumbled about briefly for a document, and then sat down.

A quick hush seemed to fall on the room, the French premier suddenly began to speak quietly and rapidly, and then, before one had a fair opportunity to take in all that was happening, the President was addressing the conference, and with a manner and in a tone of voice, audibly, and absolutely not at all different from that which any American financier might employ in making his annual report to his stockholders or board of directors. There was no stressing of syllables, few inflections, few gestures; everything was as dry and metallic as the click of coins.

The reading of the ''covenant'' of the League of Nations must have been for the President a somewhat arduous affair. To begin with, the document was long. The reading aloud required almost an hour, and further, the officially printed copy was in a small, close type. Once or twice Mr. Wilson's voice seemed to hint fatigue, but he carried through in fairly firm, strong tones to the end, after which came his speech to the conference. It was in the course of the President's speech that the only suggestions of emotion or feeling of the afternoon was noticeable, once when he was talking of the rights of small nations and once when he referred to the ''common will'' of all the peace delegates to work out some form of international organization on two other occasions. In those instances he struck lower, richer chords, his gestures became more positive and frequent, and there was a certain straightening and stiffening of his shoulders.

There was much else that was interesting at the session. From the start Premier Clemenceau made demand upon one's attention; so small that his chair seemed to engulf him, so fiercely alert that one sensed his power. There sat Mr. Lansing, Mr. White, Colonel House and then, just around the bend of the long table, General Bliss, all looked and seemed in that momentous gathering of the peoples of the world precisely what they were —intensely, unmistakably American. Nor can I quite forget Sir Joseph Ward, from New Zealand, who, severely erect and more immobile than any statue, gave a most marvelously concentrated attention to the President's every syllable; a most distinguished and dignified figure of a man was Sir Joseph at the Peace table. But President Wilson dominated there completely, casually, unostentatiously. When Mrs. Wilson, his amiable wife, entered the room in the midst of the meeting, she made her scarcely-noticed entrance through a side door, and took her place without the least attention from him. The President made the occasion, and the occasion to the last deegree was made a matter of fact.

Everything had been put in readiness in this large hall to make it possible to hear every word uttered. So quiet it was, that one could have heard a pin drop. President Wilson, in beginning the reading of the League of Nations Treaty, said:

"I have the honor and, I esteem it, the very great privilege of reporting in the name of the commission constituted by this Conference, on the formulation of a plan for the organization of a League of Nations. I am happy to say that it is a unanimous report, a unanimous report from the representatives of fourteen nations, the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Belgium, Brazil, China, Czecho-Slovakia, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Roumania and Serbia. I think it will be serviceable and interesting if I, with your permission, read the document as the only report we have made.

"In order to promote international co-operation and to secure international peace and security by the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war, by the prescription of open, just and honorable relations between nations, by the firm establishment of the understandings of international law of justice, as the actual rule of conduct among governments, and by the maintenance of justice and a scrupulous respect for all treaty obligations in the dealings of organized peoples with one another, the Powers' signatories to this covenant adopt this constitution of the *League of Nations.*''

As time passes by we notice that the League of Nations has not functioned as it was supposed to have done. The nations are still quarreling, arguing, even fighting, so we can not say that if adhered to, it would be for the best of all.

On the same day that President Wilson read the articles of the League of Nations he, in company of Mrs. Wilson, Rear Admiral Grayson and the household staff, left the Invalides railroad station for Brest, where the party boarded the George Washington, that had been awaiting to take them back to America. Despite the inclement weather, a large crowd surrounded the Paris railway station to see them off. At 9:10, when the Presidential automobile arrived, there were repeated shouts of ''Vive Wilson,'' which the President graciously acknowledged. The facade of the gare (station) had been brilliantly illuminated. The President and Mrs. Wilson had a few words for Clemenceau and Pichon, President and Mme. Poincare, General John J. Pershing, Ambassador Sharp and others, then they got into their Pullman car to make the trip to the port of Brest. The train pulled out at 9:20, the President, at the door, waving a good-bye to the shouts of the crowd. Andre Tardieu, French-American high commission at Washington, D. C.; George Leygues, Minister of Marine; Jules Jusserand, French Ambassador in Washington, and Mme. Jusserand and Gen. Leorat accompanied the party to Brest.

The President and Mrs. Wilson paid a visit to President of the French Republic and Mme. Poincare at the Palis Elysee prior to their leaving. Later, Mme. Poincaire and Mme. Stephen Pichon, wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, called on Mrs. Wilson at the Villa Murat, and proffered her, as a souvenir of the government of the Republic of France, a tea service of embroidered linen, the result of several years of work. The service was presented in a handsomely decorated box.

President Wilson and his party arrived at Brest at noon the following day. All arrangements had been made to have the George Washington lift anchor immediately upon their arrival there. They were escorted home by the cruiser New Mexico, flying the flag of Rear Admiral Wilson, formerly in charge of the American navy base in France, now being returned to the United States. Twenty destroyers, that had been stationed at the Azores, joined the Presidential escort home.

So much was President Wilson in the esteem of the French people at that time that in almost every town and city, a street, a park or a building was named in his honor. What do they think of the American people now? How times do change!

Mr. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, with Mrs. Daniels and Lieutenant Josephus Daniels, Jr., also were at the Ritz hotel, where the newspaper correspondents and photographers swarmed about asking for interviews or ''snapping'' the Secretary of the Navy as he moved about the hotel. Secretary Daniels presented a good subject for the photographers when Mr. A. J. Balfour happened to enter the hotel at the same time and stopped to greet him. Rear Admiral Griffin, Rear Admiral Taylor, Rear Admiral Early and Commander Foote were members of Secretary Daniel's party at the Ritz.

Mrs. Benson, wife of Admiral Benson, of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, was entertained by prominent society ladies of Paris, with Mrs. Daniels also present. Admiral Benson inspected the Seventh Division, to which I was attached, at Brest, on Wednesday, June 11th, 1919, prior to their leaving for home, when the people of that city gave him a grand ovation.

PLOT DISCOVERED IN THE U. S. TO MURDER PRESIDENT WILSON

Early in the year 1919 a plot was discovered in Chicago when a gang of International Workers of the World, then serving a term at Leavensworth penitentiary, schemed to assassinate President Wilson and Secretary of State McAdoo. The plot was discovered through the loyalty of a cellmate of Pietro, the leader, an anarchist, who with others were imprisoned for failure to register in the Selective Draft, and Pietro was chosen by lot to be the assassin. To this Italian the anarchist confided his plans. When Pietro was released, the Italian told the warden of the penitentiary. The secret service men were at first very skeptical, but nevertheless they trailed Pietro through several states, and became convinced that the plot really existed. Pietro was to report to the I. W. W. headquarters at Chicago to receive instruction, and did report there several times. Then he suddenly left Chicago and simultaneously with his arrest in Cleveland a raid was made on the headquarters of the I. W. W. and twenty-nine others were arrested. All the men were tried by the government, found guilty and imprisoned and some are still serving terms.

CHAPTER XIV

Peace Demands

For several months thereafter there was a lull in the affairs of peace-making in Paris; however, much correspondence took place between the different nations. Demands were made, such as: Immediate evacuation of invaded countries. German troops invading such countries were to be made prisoners of war; reparation to begin at once and to be completed in fourteen days; surrender in good condition by the German armies of the following equipment: 2,500 heavy guns, 2,500 field guns, 30,000 machine guns, 3,000 minenwerfer, 2,000 airplanes (fighters, bombers, day and night bombing machines), all to be delivered *in situ* to the Allied and United States troops in accordance with the detailed conditions laid down; 5,000 locomotives, 150,000 wagons, 5,000 motor trucks, the railways of Alsace-Lorraine to be handed back to them in the same period. Furthermore, material necessary for the working of railways in the country on the left bank of the Rhine river was to be left *in situ;* all stores of coal and material for upkeep of permanent way signals and repair shops, shall be left *in situ,* and kept in an efficient state by Germany as far as the means of communication are concerned during the whole period of the armistice; all barges and ships taken from the Allies to be restored to them; the German command to also reveal all destructive measures that may have been taken (such as poisoning or pollution of springs, wells, etc.) under penalty of reprisals; the upkeep of the troops of occupation in the Rhineland to be charged to the German government; the immediate reparation, without reciprocity, according to detailed conditions to be fixed, of all Allied and United States prisoners of war; the Allied powers and the United States of America to dispose of these prisoners of war as they might wish. However, the return of German prisoners of war to be settled at peace preliminaries; the sick and wounded who could not be removed from evacuated territory but must be left on the spot, to be cared for by German personnel with the medical material required.

These and a thousand other requirements were a part of the conditions the Germans accepted. Each front, as outlined heretofore, had its own provisions of settlement. Many days were spent before these and other matters were adjusted. So long, in fact, that many of the officers were training their men along the line of occupation, expecting any moment to be ordered back into the trenches to do the thing over.

Many a day and many a night I pleaded with our buddies then in camp and homesick, who were asking to go home ''toot sweet.'' We did not know the moment we would be ordered to go to Luxembourg and Allemagna (Germany) to fight the battle over, and show them who did win the war. Much of the Germans' ammunition and armaments had by this time been surrendered to the Allies. The streets of Paris were full of it, especially the avenues des Champs Elysees, and Champ de Mars, where hundreds of huge German guns had been surrendered, so large and heavy that I saw with my own eyes where the cement pavements had been crushed by their weight. The streets were lined with armored tanks so large they seemed almost immovable. Long field pieces, mortars, gas-shells and almost every gun made except ''Big Bertha,'' was there. ''Big Bertha'' was the big 75 kilometer German gun operated on Good Friday morning, when its leaden ball tore off the roof of the Saint Gervais Catholic Church in Paris, and killed a large number of worshippers.

Expressions of fear were manifested on every face on account of doubts as to the outcome of the Germans being willing to sign the treaty. Everything was in an uproar in Berlin. M. Clemenceau notified Bela Kun, of Hungary, of existing conditions and in the name of the Allied and Associated Powers, demanded the cessation of hostilities on the Hungarian, Roumanian and Czecho-Slovakian frontier, the armies of these states to retire within the lines previously fixed within four days from June 14th, or proper measures would be taken to force them. Bela Kun answered this warning on June 16th, assuring M. Clemenceau that the Government of the Council had given heed to the demand of the Entente for a suspension of hositilities, but that the actual situation on the Czecho-Slovakian Front made it impossible to recall the troops and evacuate the occupied positions within the time fixed, as M. Clemenceau's notice was only received on June 15th. In order, however, to satisfy the desires of the Entente, added the Hungarian dictator, the Roumanian and Czecho-Slovakian commanders had been requested to send military delegates to the Hungarian headquarters with a view to discuss and regulate the execution of evacuation.

Bela Kun added that as the Entente, until now, had not taken occasion to recognize the wishes of the Hungarian Republic, that government had not even been informed of the frontiers partly fixed. He asked that the necessary measures be taken with the Czecho-Slovaks and Roumanians to put an end to bloodshed and attempted conquest of territory at once.

CHAPTER XV

The Writer Secures Release at Paris to Places on Battle Front

Through the advice of Joffre and Clemenceau, I secured an attachment as Secretary and Interpreter with the Seventh Division, located in the vicinity of Toul. The military railways of France at that time were in a neglected condition. The management of trains for the most part was in the care of women. There was no schedule of arrival or departure nor any accuracy in anything connected with them. Here is an account of my troubles in billing out of Paris: I checked out on a Friday afternoon. I had taken, besides my trunk and knapsack, about a dozen bundles of supplies, such articles as I should need in my new headquarters. I had been delegated to take the place of Mr. James B. Madigan, whose American home was Wethersfield, Connecticut, and the French interpreter, Mr. Rolf Bonhome, of Boston, Massachusetts. Both were to return home, and a happy pair they were when told of the plans. They both remained with me a few days in order to show me how to "pull the ropes." But I have not yet told you how I got out of Paris. It took me all Friday afternoon till after dusk to check my baggage and get my ticket. We were all in line in ''barber's'' order, awaiting our turn. I was told to get passenger tickets to pay the transportation of my baggage, but the lady ticket seller did not know how many tickets I should get. She suggested that I buy three passenger tickets, one for myself and two for my luggage. All right, they were purchased. My baggage was placed on a truck by a number of young girls, wheeled onto the scales and weighed, but they found that I did not have sufficient passenger tickets to pay the ''freight.'' They advised me to get two more, so again I took up the tail end of the line of ticket purchasers and awaited my turn at the window. After getting my two tickets, I proceeded to the old weighmaster, who by this time had arrived at his post of duty. Upon reweighing my trunks and baggage he told me I still did not have enough tickets and commanded me to get one more. So out in ''line formation'' again I went, a longer line than ever because there had been so little traveling during the period of the war that it seemed everybody wanted to take a week-end visit to the front line. After getting an extra ticket from the lady ticket seller, she had noticed my frequent turns at the window so we had a pleasant ''Parle vous,'' and getting the baggage finally cared for, I repaired to my hotel, had dinner, then shortly retired for the night

The next morning found me early at the Gare du Nord (Station of the North), where I got into the coach, carrying my valise, field glasses and kodak. After some delay the engineer pulled the whistle cord and we started for the battle front. The first sight of destruction was at Chateau-Thierry on the Marne river, where so many boys of the Rainbow Division had their headquarters. The next stop of interest was at Epernay, then Chalons, Vitray, Rivigny, Bar le Duc and we finally arrived at Toul after running through Commercy and crossing the Meuse river, which is canalized. At Toul I took a narrow gauge train that carried me to my destination, Menil-la Tour. All this trip was conducted without a brakeman or a conductor. The girls at the stations gathered the tickets as you stepped off. We traveled after night on a narrow-gauge road, no lights; a dark night and no one to call stations—a stranger—crowded coaches —I was traveling and knew not where. But one always finds a way out. The passengers soon found I could speak French, even though I had on an American uniform. I soon made friends. There happened to be on the same coach an American soldier by the name of Cramer, who was going to Menil-la Tour, too. He knew Mr. Madigan and offered to help me off there.

When the train came to a stop at Menil-la Tour, we, with others, got off, and at once went to the baggage car to see that all my baggage had been put off, as in the rush much luggage was lost, never to be found. I had had some experience in this line, when a Y. W. C. A. war worker lost her two valises which by mistake had been taken three miles out by a government truck and dumped by the side of the military road.

My baggage was placed in the baggage room of the station and was left there until Monday morning. My tickets were never called for. I have them yet as a souvenir of the occasion. Mr. Cramer and I proceeded on through the muddy streets, "dark as pitch", until we found a place crowded with buddies having a good time. After the usual short preliminaries, Mr. Madigan asked if we had had our suppers. "Yes," said Cramer, "we had our suppers yesterday, but leave it to me, I will see that Peters gets his meal." He led the way through the unlighted streets to the Salvation hut several blocks from the place that was to be my official home. Mr. Cramer, being well acquainted with the bunch, ordered our suppers. It so happened that the workers there were preparing supper for a Y. W. C. A. worker who had arrived on the same train, so we three had a splendid repast prepared at the hands of the Salvation Army boys and girls.

We then repaired to my headquarters where a room was at my disposal, for a good night's rest; however, it was so cold (there was a marble flaged fire-place in this room but very little fuel), that it was with the utmost effort that I kept from freezing. I got up early, built a good fire in the downstairs fire-place and soon was comfortable again. Mr. Madigan was billeted at a restaurant in the town, which place I took upon his departure for the good old United States. I had not locked, (in fact there was no lock), my sleeping room while I went to the army kitchen to have the first army breakfast I had ever eaten, consisting of Indian corn mush, (where is Hoover—who Hooverized in the good old U. S. A.?), a big dipper of good molasses, a big chunk of good beef and my kit cup full of coffee—no milk nor sugar. There was no such animal in our lot. Yet the people back home ''Hooverized for Hoover.'' While getting this breakfast together with my new-made friend, Mr. Madigan, who had joined me in the lines of the soldier boys, some sneak thief went into my sleeping room and stole my traveling card, my check book and other papers, together with my razor and other trinkets I carried in my valise. What I regretted most was my traveling card. I sent to Paris for one and also a complete set of American Express checks. I offered a reward for the return of the papers, which included my father's passport, but no word was ever received concerning them.

On Monday morning I met Lieut. H. J. Dorman, of the 7th Division, who was about to leave for his home, 1849 Broadway, New York City. He said he knew of no one who needed an automobile more than I in my work, so he left his car in my charge, and I made daily use of it in my duties. One day, a week or so later, the Salvation Army girls desired to make a visit to the St. Mihiel Salvation Army hut, so I ordered my chauffeur, a little Italian boy from Utica, New York, and a musician in our military band, to take the girls over. They reported to me that they had a delightful trip, ''much pleasanter'' than going by motor truck.

Among my duties I had three hospitals to visit, attend any court where any A. E. F. got into trouble, and accompany the paymaster (quartermaster), once a month to a French bank to get the pay roll. We were never molested, and I never carried a gun. I made a number of business trips by auto to Toul, Bar le Duc, Vavincourt, Void, Commercy, St. Mihiel, Mt. Sec, Verdun, Etain, Conflan, Pont-a-Mousson, Chambly, Metz, Vaucouleurs, Columbia-la-Belle, Pagny-la-Blanch, Domremey, Neufchateau and many other places of importance. I crossed and recrossed France several times by train. I was sent on official business to Reims, Nancy, Strasbourg, Colmar, Mulhausen, Belfort, Chaumont, Gen. John J. Pershing's headquarters, Montbeliard, Besancon, Dijon, Le-Mans, St. Sabine, Brest, St. Martin-la Conquet, Tours, Orleans, Bordeaux, Bayonne, Hendaye, the Spanish border, Lourdes, Toulouse, Pau, where are the great aviation fields of France, Marseilles, Nice, and went to Monte Carlo for sport.

The government had placed in my hands Campbell's Guide of Travel No. 7, adopted and used by the Federation of Automobile Clubs of France, to be used in traveling with my car, and a copy of the ''Livret-Chaix-Chemins de Fer-Francais'' (book and chart of the railroads of France). Thus with my Red Traveling Card I was equipped to travel both by automobile and rail, and useless to say, I always had the best of everything, so long as I was in the French command, but it was different on my way home through France.

CHAPTER XVI

A Visit to Metz

Five thousand locomotives had been taken or destroyed by the Germans and their allies. That number of locomotives the German government had to give up in accordance to the terms of the armistice. There were many flat cars, box cars and passenger cars taken from the Allied nations during the period of the war. These all had to be returned in their numbers and kinds. Many of the stolen cars had been destroyed or made unfit for use. These had to be replaced by German cars. On one of my trips across France I had the honor and opportunity of riding in Emperor William's special Pullman sleeper that had been exchanged for a French car of similar make.

Metz is a large, strongly fortified city of Lorraine, on the river Seille. Had the armistice not been signed at Spa near the German field headquarters, on November 11th, 1918, Metz would have been reduced to fragments, for there was a formation of a united airplane drive of bombing planes to be let loose on November 15th, which would have destroyed the nine fortifications surrounding Metz, so that any semblance of survivorship would have been impossible. The flotilla was to go on to Berlin and lay waste that city.

I was detailed, in company of other officials, to go to Metz to secure the release of a number of locomotives held there by the Germans. Metz is quite a railroad town. We found the locomotives in question, and had no trouble in getting their release. They had been steamed up that morning and it was surmised that the engineer and fireman had intended to sneak them away to central Germany. I shall never forget how the engineer looked when we gave him orders to dismount from his seat in the cab of one of the locomotives we were after. We turned these locomotives over to French engineers and firemen, who had been detailed to man them. French gendarmerie (policemen) were stationed night and day at all cross roads in frontier regions and it was a hard matter to get through. This task was placed upon me, as the sole one of the company carrying a Red Traveling Card. A few words of courtesy and the display of my badge was all that was necessary to bid us go. On one occasion while traveling to Neuf-Chateau with Captain Payne of my division the chauffeur was suddenly ordered to halt. Captain Payne, who carried no "working" card, sat on the front seat of the big Studebaker sedan. He did not know what excuse to give for being there, besides he could not speak French. I was riding in the back seat, the gendarme came forward, opened the door and as soon as he saw the badge I carried and my "Red Card" he sent us on our way.

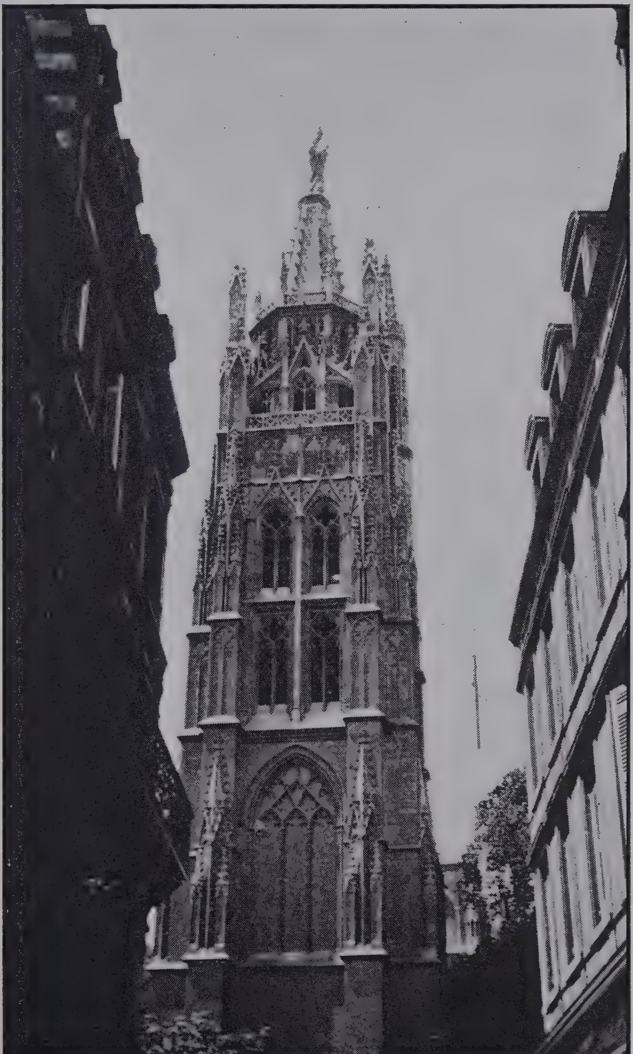
He did not stop us on our return but passed us on with his salute.

German army returning home after armistice was signed. Passing through Metz.

CHAPTER XVII

A Trip Made to Doremy

Almost all history readers in the United States have read the story of Jeanne 'd Arc. It was with the greatest thrill of my life that I had the pleasure of visiting the old home at Domremy, the birthplace of this patriotic young girl. The property now is a shrine held by the French government, and during peace times attracts many tourists traveling through France. I had the opportunity to speak to some of her distant relatives, cousins, who in the name of the government take care of the premises. The surroundings are neatly kept, however during the period of the war the upkeep was somewhat neglected. The new basilique, built a few years prior to the late war, marks the place where she was inspired to take up arms for King James VII. On the walls of the interior are the murals by Lionel Royer. There are six in number: Jeanne 'd Arc ecoutant les voix (Jeanne 'd Arc hears the voice), La reconnaissance du Roi a Chinon (Recognition of the King, at Chinon); Entree a Orleans (Entrance at Orleans), Bataille de Patay (Battle of Patay), Le Sacre de Reims (The Blessing at Reims), La Bucher de Rouen (Burning at the Stakes at Rouen). She was canonized in the Catholic church and accepted by the French government as the patron saint of that country. On Sunday, June 22d,



Tower of Bordeaux Cathedral. It sways two or three inches when bells ring.

1919, I patricipated in the celebration of the canonizing of this saint at the Cathedral at Bordeaux as a representative of the Knights of Columbus.

I commandeered American motor trucks on two occasions and with hundreds of American buddies spent the day there at the shrine.

The following is a copy of Joan of Arc's letter to the English at Orleans:

''King of England, and you, Duke of Bedford, who call yourself regent of the Kingdom of France, and you, William de la Pole, Count of Suffolk; John Lord Talbot, and you, Thomas Lord Scales, who call yourselves lieutenants of the said Duke of Bedford, give heed to the King of Heaven, and yield up to the king the keys of all the good cities which you have taken and violated in France.

''The Maid is come on the part of God to rescue the royal blood. She will make peace, if you leave France, and pay for what you have held. And you, archers, companions of war, gentle and otherwise, return to your country on the part of God; if not, you will quickly see the consequence to your great loss.

''King of England, God has sent me to drive all your forces out of France. The King of Heaven, the Son of Mary, gives it to the true heir, King Charles VII, who will enter Paris in fair array. If you heed not this message of Heaven, you will suffer such things as have not been seen in France for a thousand years.''

Copy of Ascension Day Letter to the English:

"Depart without blood. You have no right to be here, depart, or I will cause you such a defeat as never shall be forgotten."

Then taking an arrow, she attached the letter to it, and bade an archer shoot it into the English camp, while she rode near to them crying out, "Read; there is news for you."

Copy of Joan of Arc's remarkable letter to the citizens of Troyes:

"My very dear and good friends—if you wish to be —the Maid commands you in the name of the King of Heaven your duty to acknowledge the gentle King of France, who will soon be at Reims and Paris . . . . . . Love all Frenchmen, come to meet your King; for I assure you, we will enter all the towns that belongs to France."

CHAPTER XVIII

Finally Called to Germany

The German government had been slow in working out an agreement among themselves as to the acceptance of the treaty to be signed at Paris or Versailles, a beautiful little city west of Paris.

On December 14th, 1918, the armistice settlement was renewed. The date for the signing of the terms had been postponed from time to time until we thought the Germans were taking time to prepare for another struggle. So bitter was the feeling and attitude of the French against the Germans that in several cases where German prisoners of war were still in care of the French they were treated brutally. The French girls would sneer, slur, and call them ''Boche'' and vile names. The poor prisoners could not help their position during the time the German government withheld settlement. In my company, the 22d, an orderly having two German prisoners under strict military rule, detailed them to perform the janitor work each morning at my headquarters. Fuel was a scarce article there at that time. The lady who owned the premises had a pig sty of old lumber and she gave me permission to cut this timber into short stove-length wood, and I could have half of it to use at my headquarters. I told this to the French orderly who ordered the two German boys to cut this as directed, which they did with the use of a cross-cut saw. During the time they were at work sawing these boards they spied a nice long pine pole about ten inches in diameter and about fifty feet long. It surely was a dandy pole. They thought that it, too, would make a nice pile of good wood to burn. They soon, without any one's permission, had this pole down from its stored place and sawed up. The old lady, who lived in an apartment of the building, had a small stove that could burn wood eight inches long. They divided the wood into two piles, and after I had treated them to some cigarettes they went away, in charge of the orderly who carried a loaded rifle and would not be back until the next day.

It appeared that a nephew of this old unmarried lady, who was taking care of her property and her person, came that same day and took observation of the place. He was a veteran soldier of France in uniform and happened to be a little ''jagged,'' as they call it. On entering the barn he observed those two good size piles of wood. Then he observed that the pine pole was gone. He immediately reported this to his aunt. She told him of having given me the lumber on a fifty-fifty basis but knew nothing about the pole. Later I noticed a French soldier entering the office of my headquarters. He demanded in a loud voice, that attracted the attention of about fifty American soldiers, the following: ''Sacre nom-de-Dieu-Quelque a pris mon petit sapin.'' Translated mildly: ''In the name of God, where is my little pine?'' I soon had matters settled. I gave him a piece of silver money for the little pine pole, also I gave him a supply of cigarettes, tobacco and a pipe, some chocolate to the old lady, (this was shipped to us by the carload, through the Knights of Columbus, to be distributed free to the American soldiers), and everything thereafter was lovely as far as concerned this little French soldier and myself. He permitted me, with his aunt's consent, to get fuel from an adjoining forest owned by his aunt, and we never afterward suffered for want of wood to burn to keep us warm.

The conditions of the terms of the armistice was that the Germans were to accept or reject the terms of peace within forty-eight hours after the signing of the terms at Spa, but so many extensions had been granted that the American soldiers looked at it as a joke. Marshal Foch had to obtain further guarantees and reserve the right to occupy the neutral zone from Dutch frontier to Cologne on giving six days' notice. The Germans had to furnish two and a half million tons of shipping for general use in the transport of foodstuffs, and the Baden battleship was to be handed over instead of the unfinished Mackensen.

There had arisen in Germany a strong party which held that the terms of the armistice could safely be disowned. General von Winterfeldt became the representative of this party on the Armistice Commission, and at Treves on January 16th, 1919, he made a determined effort to induce his fellow-delegates to denounce the agreement for cessation of hostilities. When Herr Erzberger refused to do so, General von Winterfeldt resigned, nominally over the question of extending the zone of French occupation from Strasbourg to a strip of territory on the east bank of the Rhine. This was the breaking point in the German Council.

New clauses had to be signed by the rest of the enemy envoys concerning the surrender of hidden U-boats which Sir Montague Browning had discovered, the placing of the German merchant fleet at the disposal of the Allies, the replacement of farming machinery stolen by the Germans from the invaded territories and of industrial stocks and factory equipment stolen from the French and Belgians. Demands for my service were so great that many times I had calls to go and assist officers in different localities at the same time. I was "on the go" almost all the time, night and day, until finally I had to give up and take a rest.

All this time the Germans were making offers and requests. The punishment of persons guilty of illegal treatment of prisoners of war was justly demanded. The mildness with which the new terms were received encouraged the Teutons in their belief that the Allies had become so weakened by demobilization troubles that their troops could not fight. Hindenburg concentrated a strong army around Danzig, and opened skirmishing actions against the Poles along the lake and marshland defenses of Posen. This attack on Poland was a direct test of power and stability of the Associated Powers. The Supreme Council of War was at last aroused. Marshal Foch was empowered to resume the offensive if the enemy did not at once agree to new conditions being imposed upon him. There was another meeting of the Armistice Commission at Treves on Friday, February 14th, 1919. The Germans were ordered to cease all attacks upon the Poles and to keep outside the purely Polish district of Posen.

While the Teutons were hesitating between peace and war, hundreds of new guns with fresh shell supplies, rolled past the train in which Erzberger and his associates sat as they were returning from the meeting held at Treves. This gave them a strong hint. They saw that there was something in the air and the enemy delegates signed the new treaty on the evening of February 16th, 1919.

As a means was found of quelling the stubborn, intriguing spirit of the Germans, the scope of the convention at Treves was thereupon enlarged. The armistice was employed as the base of the peace treaty. The Allies felt they could regulate with more speed many important matters of final settlement by introducing them as terms enforceable at a few days' notice. At Treves the victors had immediate force to make their just decisions effective, so they resolved to merge the general peace negotiations into the armistice. Treves was to be the gateway to the Palace of Peace at Versailles.

The treaty signed at that date is as potent today as it was then. Here are a few of the points which contribute to the welfare of all civilized nations:

1st. In favor of reduction on national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety.

2d. Mutual protection by concerted use of national armies and navies, including the air squads.

3d. Arbitration of all international disputes arising between members of the treaty.

4th. Severance of all international trade, financial and other relations between members of the treaty and any nation breaking the covenant.

5th. Control of trade in arms and ammunition.

6th. Establishment of mandatories for peoples not yet able to govern themselves.

7th. Establishment of an International Bureau of Labor.

8th. Registration of all treaties.

9th. Regulation of old treaties now inapplicable.

These nine points with the other agreements heretofore noted were to govern.

CHAPTER XIX

Governments Face Grave Questions

Russia was daily causing deeper concern among the delegates around the peace table. The invitation which had been sent to the Russian government had not been accepted by some of the elements which the Allied governments wished most to see. They were to have held a meeting of Russians at Prinkipo or at the Aaland Island, in the Baltic Sea, but no report of such a meeting had ever come to the Allied government. The grave question of that time was the same as it is today!

''Three meals a day and a job.'' The people were obviously concerned about what their government was to be, but they were much more worried about the next day's food and work. A portion of the world's business was at that time stagnated and it was then as it is now, necessary to immediately revive the business of the world and cause some of the war's commercial knots to be untied. The blockade upon the enemy countries meant much more than suffering in Germany. There was a corresponding lethargy the world over which, unless soon eliminated, held grave possibilities. This statement will show you that conditions to the present day have not improved any.

The Teutons were tricky, even to the last. On hearing the term of the treaty, they stated they were not at first empowered to sign everything unconditionally, as the German government had changed in character since their appointment. They requested means of communicating the terms to German headquarters near Spa. By this time Emperor William had fled, like his heir, to Doorn, a little village in Holland. The Kaiser was practically compelled to abdicate by the Socialist Major Party, who at last found they could neither negotiate a peace nor assuage the rising temper of the people while William of Hohenzollern remained in power. Almost all of the enemy military authorities remained steadfast to the Kaiser to the end, doing everything possible to save him from disgraceful flight, in order to make him the center of a constitutional monarchy, but von Hindenburg, in person, finally informed the fallen autocrat that a stay in Holland was advisable. He is there yet and is apt to stay there, but would like to return to his old home, for "there's no place like home."

Prince Max of Baden resigned in favor of a Socialist chancellor, Herr Ebert, once a saddle maker, on the day when the German delegates motored into the French lines. Undoubtedly Erzberger and his party knew what was going on and he wished to take part in the shaping of the new government along with von Hindenburg. But in the Compiegne Forest they turned to profit the new misfortune of their country, and by pleading they were unauthorized to sign conditions obtained an extension of the time given by Marshal Foch for acceptance or refusal of the terms of the treaty.

CHAPTER XX

On a Mission to Strasbourg, Germany

Detailed to proceed to Strasbourg, I went by rail, by way of the Southeast Front. My train was delayed at different places where repairs to demolished roadbeds and track were not complete. We passed where newly made tracks were built to detour, where bridges across the Rhine river had been destroyed by the German army. Farther east, the country had not been molested, and one traveling through the quiet towns and villages could not have noticed that the nation had been in war for four years or more, save for the lack of seeing able-bodied men. The whole business of the country was in the hands of women, most of them girls. The farms were well cared for, the factories were kept running before the armistice, chiefly making munitions of war. We soon found the parties who were to meet us at one of the leading hotels of that large city, secured the signature to some papers, acknowledged the courtesy of the committee, after which I proceeded to the large Cathedral of Strasbourgh. My father, who in his youth had roamed the streets of this city, had often told me of the wonderful clock of this Cathedral. I was determined to see it. I found it to be a marvelous piece of mechanism. One would naturally look to the steeple to see the clock. Not so here. This wonderful clock was built in one of the many crypts found in the Cathedral. Let me first give you a short description of this magnificent church in which this renowned clock is found.

The first aspect of the Cathedral produces on the mind a deep impression. One is seized with admiration and amazed at the sight of this noble edifice whose steeples tower up so gracefully and majestically. The facade of this church is of an imposing magnitude and could not be sufficiently admired. The massive walls are hidden by clochetons, arcades, small pillars and innumerable statutes; these decorations all wrought to a great perfection, give to that part of the edifice a nicety that makes it resemble a work coming from the hands of a enchasser. But to describe, in the short space which the limits of my sketch admit, all the details, all the particular parts of this great Cathedral is impossible. There is in it such a profusion, such richness that to be properly related would require volumes. I must, therefore, limit myself to brief descriptions of the most interesting and essential parts. All these fine ornaments are means to symbolize the mystery of the Redemption, taken from the principal facts in Scripture and from the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. In this respect the lower tier is the most remarkable; the middle one has neither the same beauty nor the same religious signification; the third is the least satisfactory both as regards execution and artistical conception. The whole of the facade is formed of the two foreparts of the northern and southern towers and of the large central porch; these three distinct portions are separated by counterforts or pillars which divide, as it were, the frontispiece into three broad vertical bands, each of which has its own portico. These porticos and their frontons are ornamented with a great many statutes and bas-reliefs, some of which were pulled down during the revolution but have since been replaced.

The large figures in the left portico are twelve virgins wearing diadems and trampling down human forms representing the seven deadly sins. On both sides of the right-hand portico are seen the ten virgins of the parable; to the group of the wise virgins on the right is joined the statute of Jesus Christ; the foolish virgins composing the group on the left side have among them an allegoric figure expressing the lust of the world; on her head is a wreath, in one hand she holds an apple, the ancient symbol of lust, her back bears hideous vipers to portray the sad fate which must be the inevitable result of inordinate earthly desires. All these statues, now blackened by the centuries that have passed over them, have a stern appearance, like those that adorn the magnificent middle porch representing prophets of the Old Testament, apostles and fathers of the church.

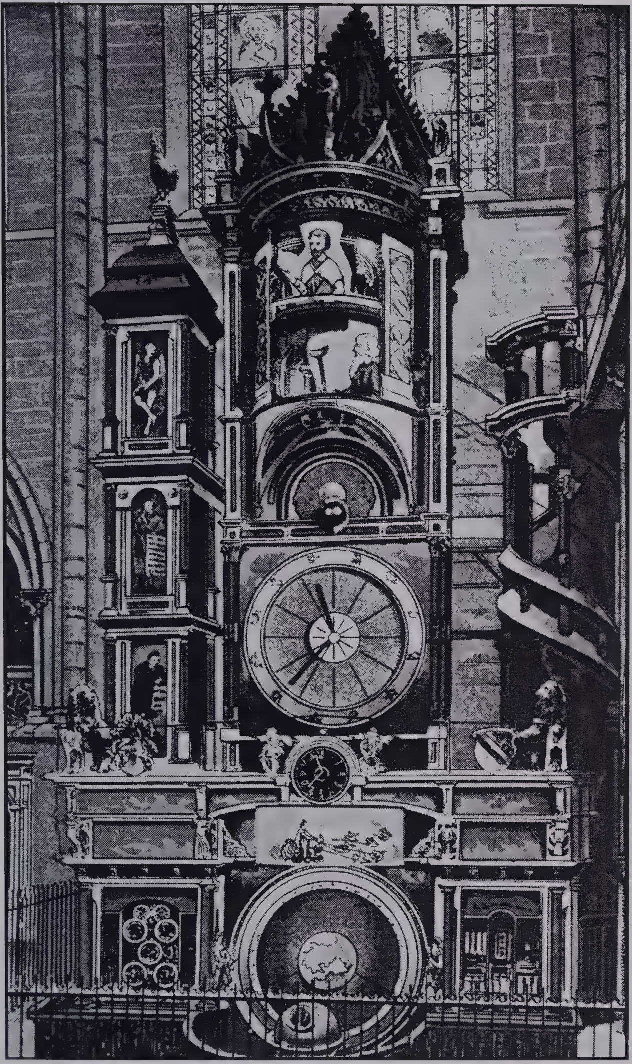
In the arches of these three porticos are figures of a smaller size, which, like the bas-reliefs of the tympans, exhibit either scenes taken from Scripture or saints or angels. In the tympan on the right hand door Jesus is seen seated on a rainbow, and over him is the Resurrection of the dead and the Judgment day. On the butting pillar that divides both folds of the middle porch is placed a Blessed Virgin holding an Infant Christ in her arms. The fronton of this portal is formed by two triangles and adorned with many figures; that on the summit of the interior triangle which first strikes the eye is King Solomon seated under a canopy; on both sides of him are fourteen lions raised on steps or benches that draw near towards the top and join near a Virgin Mary sitting with the Infant Christ on one arm and holding a globe in her other hand. She is the patroness of this church. Above her a radiated head, representing God the Father, forms the point of this triangle that encircles the inside fronton, which is decked with figures playing on different musical instruments. On the side facing the north and south, the two towers have each a large window with most beautiful rosaces. Over the window on the south side is seen a very old sculpture, the grotesque figures of which represent the night reveling of sorcerers. The frontons of the other porticos are also adorned with rosaces.

On the second tier of the middle porch is a large rose-window that occupies the whole width of it. It is surrounded by a detached arch, which as much on account of the elegance of its workmanship as of the boldness of its construction, is one of the most admirable parts of the Cathedral. The large painted windows have been repaired by skillful artists, Mr. Ritter and Mr. Muller. Where the second tier begins, at the bottom of the rose-window, are four equestrian statutes placed in niches in the counterforts, three of which, those of Clovis, Dagobert and Randolph of Hapsburg, were erected in 1294, the fourth, that of Louis XIV, was placed only in 1828.

THE STRASBOURG CLOCK

As early as 1352 an astronomical clock was begun under Bishop Berthold of Bucheck and was finished two years after by an unknown artist in the time of John of Lichtenberg. It was fixed to the wall facing the present one. The frame work of the first was all of wood; the stones that formed its basis are to this day seen projecting from the wall. It was divided into three parts; the lower part contained a universal calendar; in the middle was an astrolabe, and in the superior division were seen the three wise men and the Virgin Mary carved in wood; the wise men bowed every hour before the Virgin by means of a peculiar mechanism, which at the same time put in motion a chime of harmonious sounds and a cock crowing and flapping his wings. The exact time at which this clock, which in the fourteenth century must have been a wonderful piece of workmanship, then called the clock of the three sages, ceased going is not known; it had been stopped for a long time when in 1547 the magistrate of the town of Strasbourg decided on having another made and putting it opposite the old one in the very place the present clock now occupies. Three distinguished mathematicians furnished the plan and superintended the execution of it. They were Dr. Michel Herr, Christian Herlin and Nick Prugner, who, after preaching the reformation at Mulhouse and at Benfeld, occupied himself at Strasbourg with mechanics and astrology. These three learned men began this work but did not complete it. It was resumed in the year of 1570 by a pupil of Herlin, named Conrad Dasyopodius of Strasbourg, where he was located as a professor of mathematics. He drew the design of the clock, but its execution was given to two skilful mechanics of the Schaffhouse, the brothers, Isaac and Josiah Habrecht. To Tobias Stimmer, also of Schaffhouse, was given the work of the paintings. This masterpiece of mechanical art of the sixteenth century was completed in 1574; it ceased going in 1789.

The exterior of the third and present clock is nearly the same as that of the old clock. In 1836 the corporation of the town of Strasbourg adopted a resolution to



Astronomique Clock—a wonderful piece of workmanship, in the interior of the Cathedral at Strasbourg.

the effect that this curious monument, which was then silent, be repaired. To Mr. Schwilgue, a distinguished mechanician of Strasbourg, his native city, this remarkable work was entrusted. He began the work of remodeling it on the 24th day of June, 1838, and finished it, as I saw it, at the end of 1842.

I spent a day with others studying its wonderful mechanism, a professor of the University of Strasbourg being present to demonstrate to the throng of visitors. It is one of the most beautiful pieces of workmanship of our age; its mechanism is almost entirely new and in accordance with the present state of the science of astronomy which, as is well known, has attained a very high degree of certainty and exactness. Mr. Schwilgue did not make use of any of the pieces of the old clock, which are deposited in the chapel of the Oeuvre-Notre Dame. Only the case, paintings and ornaments were used in the repairs. The image of the Savior stands now on higher ground; at the hour of noon the twelve apostles pass bowing before Him; He lifts up His hand to bless them, and during that time a cock, whose motions and voice exactly imitate nature, flaps his wings and crows three times.

The dial, nine and three-fourths feet in diameter, is subject to a revolution of 365 or 366 days, according to the days of the year; the phases of the moon, the eclipses of the sun and moon, calculated not only for one year but forever; the true time and sidereal time; a new celestial globe with the procession of the equinox, solar and lunar equations for the reduction of the mean geocentric ascension and declension of the sun and moon at true times and places, all are given. A dial placed outside the church and showing, not only the hour but the day as well, is set in motion by the same mechanism of clockwork.

This church was struck by lightning in 1759, but with little loss. Thousands of visitors annually go to Strasbourg expressly to see this wonder; however, during the period of the war dust gathered on its surroundings but it never faltered to give the exact time of the day and indicate the motions of the earth.

Such accuracy could never be attained with ordinary clocks or even extraordinary ones if someone had to attend the clock each time the signals were sent out. The precision clock or regulator is kept in a small room within a room in the basement of the church. Both rooms are sealed, waterproof and insulated against heat and cold, and not affected by what is in general terms called lightning. Inside the inner room neither the temperature nor the air pressure varies all year long. Nor is any one permitted to enter this room except experts, for even the tiny amount of heat radiated by a human body would alter the precision with which the clock beats out the seconds.

CHAPTER XXI

A Visit to Lourdes

A tour through France is not complete unless one visits Lourdes. It was the opportunity of the writer to visit this noted shrine on the occasion to his mission to the Flying Fields of Pau and the city of Toulouse, the home of Marshal Joffre. I had gone to Bayonne and Hendaye, on the coast of the north line of Spain, where one can see some bull fighting.

I was told that until the year 1858 Lourdes was a peasant town of no great worth. Lying, as it does, along the sides of the north coast of the Pyrenees Mountains, which is possessed of many places of natural beauty, Lourdes is one of them. I remembered of my father relating to me a pilgrimage that he and his mother and others of his family had made on foot to this shrine about the time that place became noted for pilgrimages. From what he had told me, I was anxious to visit the place and learn more about it.

As the story goes, on the 7th day of January, 1844, the first child of Francois Soubirous and Louise Casterot Soubirous was born. This child was called Bernadette. Bernadette was given into the care of a peasant family in the neighboring village of Bartres. This was done on account of the serious sickness of the mother and the poverty of the family. The foster parents were very kind to Bernadette and would often give her the privilege of playing in the open air and woods near their home. When about eight years old she was given a small flock of sheep to graze and care for near home. She became very religious, saying her rosary, whiling away the time. When Bernadette was thirteen years old she went back to her parents at Lourdes. Neither she, nor her parents, were fluent French-speaking people. They used only the ''patois'' or dialect used by the peasants of the French Pyrenees. She did not possess earthly knowledge, but possessed that of God through piety and innocence. The family was very poor. They at first lived in a discarded building which had been used to hold prisoners, the old home of Napoleon III. The father was a miller, and finally moved into the mill, which received its motive power from the Gave river through a mill race. It was on the 11th of February, 1858, when Bernadette, her sister Marie and a neighbor's little daughter started out to gather drift wood along the river bank for fuel, for the mild winter of that locality called for some fire. On the left of the river bank stood an enormous rock which the people called ''The Rock of Massabielle.'' (The Rock of Helpfulness). A small cave was at its base and a natural cleft stood above the cave, which looked like a niche in a church. A rose bush grew in the fissure of the rock at the base of the niche. The other little girls waded through the mill race so they might reach the cave or grotto where they saw some driftwood. Bernadette was afraid to step on the thin ice for fear it would break. She also feared to step into the icy waters but her companions continued to urge her and finally she stooped to remove her shoes and stockings and crossed the race. As she was crossing she was startled by a loud, strong wind rushing through the valley. Looking up she realized that all the trees along the banks of the river were perfectly still. She stooped again and once more she heard the sound of this mighty ruffle. When she lifted her eyes she saw a Beautiful Lady standing in the niche above the grotto. This Beautiful Lady was quite a young person. She was clad in a robe of snowy whiteness and above her waist was a sash of pale blue, from her head there flowed a lovely white veil while upon either barefoot there rested a golden rose. Clasped in the fingers of her hands was a rosary, whose beads seemed of pearl, and its chain and cross were of gold.

Bernadette fell upon her knees and tried to make the Sign of the Cross, but she was unable to do so until the Lady started to make it. Bernadette began to say her beads and the Lady remained until the prayers were recited. Then the Lady disappeared. Bernadette asked her companions whether they had seen the vision. They said they had seen and heard nothing. After going home each with a small armload of branches of driftwood, Bernadette told her story of the apparition to her mother, who thought her daughter had overtaxed herself in getting the driftwood, so she forbade Bernadette to go again to the grotto.

On Sunday, February 14th, Bernadette and her two former companions with other girls of the community, started for the grotto. The Lady again appeared but only to Bernadette, who scattered Holy Water that she had taken with her. The Lady smiled and advanced towards Bernadette. She did not disappear until the children had finished their prayers.

Madam Millet and Mademoiselle Peyret went to the grotto with Bernadette on Thursday, February 18th. They took a pen and some ink and paper with them. The Lady again appeared to the child, who asked the Lady to write down her wishes but the Lady smiled and said, ''There is no use for me to write down what I have to say to you.'' After a short silence the Lady said, ''Will you be so kind as to come here for fifteen days?'' Then she promised Bernadette that she would make her happy, not in this world but in the next.

On the next day Bernadette's mother and aunt went to the grotto with her. The Lady again appeared and promised to make certain revelations to Bernadette later.

A great number of people of Lourdes were present when Bernadette saw the Lady on Saturday, February 20th. The Lady soon appeared and taught Bernadette a short prayer which she was to say for her own needs.

Hundreds of people were present when the child visited the grotto on the next day, Sunday, February 21st. The news of this strange apparition spread like wildfire. This time the Lady seemed sad and when Bernadette asked the Lady the cause for this sadness the

Lady answered, "You pray for sinners." Bernadette went there again on the following Monday but the Lady did not appear but on Tuesday she confided to Bernadette three personal secrets. These secrets were not to be revealed to any one. During the apparition on Wednesday morning, February 24th, Bernadette repeatedly kissed the ground and then turned to the vast crowd assembled, and in a voice almost chocked by sobs, she said, "Penance, Penance, Penance," three times.

The ninth apparition took place on Thursday, February 25th. The Lady commanded Bernadette to drink and wash her hands and face in the fountain. In the presence of a large crowd of people the child made a hole in the ground with her fingers and miraculous water began to trickle forth. Urged by an interior impulse, she also ate some of the nearby grass. In a few hours the water was gushing forth and a spring has been flowing ever since. For almost eighty years its waters have been an unfailing blessing to suffering mankind the world over.

Upon her arrival at the grotto on the 26th of February, Bernadette crossed herself, drank of the spring water and washed her hands and face. The Lady said to her, "You will kiss the earth for sinners." The little girl obeyed and turning to the crowd, motioned for the people to do likewise. With one accord the people obeyed. On Saturday, February 27th, the Lady directed that Bernadette should go to the priest with this command, "Go, tell the priests that a chapel must be built here.'' The old church stood about a half mile to the east of the grotto. Very naturally the prudent parish priest, Monsignor Peyramale, who had heard of the affair, demanded more than the mere testimony of Bernadette. He told the child to inform the Lady that he could not deal with unknown people. He said that the Lady would have to give him her name and prove her right to that name before he could take up the question of fulfilling her wishes to build a church at the grotto.

The personal communications between the Lady and Bernadette were never revealed to any one. Therefore, we find that the child had no word for the people after the apparition of Sunday, February 28th. On Monday, March 1st, Bernadette started to use a rosary that a friend had asked her to use at the grotto. The Lady asked her where her own rosary was. Bernadette held up the one that she had started to use but the Lady said to her, ''You are wrong. This rosary is not yours.'' Then the child took up her own rosary and began reciting her prayers.

The fourteenth apparition was on Tuesday, March 2d. Bernadette was told again to go to the priests to ask for a chapel. When the child carried the message to Monsignor Peyramale, his reply was, ''When the Lady makes the rose bush beneath the grotto burst into bloom suddenly in my presence or in the presence of the multitude, I then shall believe your words.'' There was no apparition on Wednesday, March 3d. On the following day thousands had gathered but Bernadette said that the Lady had only smiled as she departed and had not even said good-bye. The name of the Lady was revealed to Bernadette on the 25th of March. The child had besought her to tell her her name. At the third request the Lady seemed to bow down in an attitude of humility. She then joined her hands and raised them to her breast as if in prayer. She looked up to heaven, then slowly opening her hands and leaning towards Bernadette, she said to the child, "I am the *Immaculate Conception.*" The Blessed Virgin appeared to Bernadette on two other occasions. During the vision on Easter Wednesday, April 7th, thousands were gathered before the grotto. In her joy the child held her fingers over the burning candle that she carried from home to the grotto. She remained in that position for some time without burning her hands. Our Lady of Lourdes again smiled a loving farewell to Bernadette on the 16th of July. The Blessed Lady was not again to favor the innocent little girl with her visible presence until Bernadette should open her eyes in the world where the Peerless Queen of Heaven had promised her everlasting happiness.

Bernadette became a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers. She made her vows at their convent on the 30th of October, 1867. This was about ten years after my father's visit to this place. She was a religious model, she edified all who saw her. Her death occurred at Nevers, France, in 1879. Every moment of the thirty-five years of her life had been spent in the service of

God. We may be certain that Our Lady of Lourdes met her as the innocent servant of God passed through the portals that lead to life eternal in heaven.

Let me give you a little more history of this shrine. The civil government endeavored to stop the faithful Christians from visiting the hallowed shrine. This was all in vain, for you know we are told ''Knock and it shall be opened unto you, ask and you shall receive.'' People continued to come by the thousands. Wonderful miracles were wrought. People, who came with the help of crutches, left them there and went home rejoicing. Napoleon III directed that the people should not be molested. The clergy at first were silent. They, in many instances, did not join in the enthusiasm. A new chapel had been in course of construction at the old church yard at the time Bernadette saw the first vision. Father Peyramale was reticent, his desire was to complete his own church, which to this day is unfinished and to which I had the honor to contribute my mite towards its completion. He cared not to leave his half finished church to begin another one only a half mile away.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop of Tarbes, France (whose population is about 30,000), about twenty miles to the northeast of Lourdes, conducted a thorough investigation. Bernadette was questioned from every angle but she, like ''Jeanne 'd Arc,'' never wavered in her story. Those that were cured of their ills at the grotto were subjected to rigid examination. At last His Lordship, the Bishop, decided that the Gentle Queen of Heaven had designed to visit the little town of Lourdes. The work of building a church was begun at once and a citadel that is worth seeing is there.

I can give you only a meager idea of its beauty, its construction, and it is built to last. It is only a short distance east of the grotto. It is built on the north side of a range of the Pyrenees mountains. The rocks had to be blasted to make room for this monstrous edifice. It has three floors and its tower mounts upward to a great height. The pinacles, grottos and alcoves are numerous, making the view a most pleasing and beautiful one. As one wends his way along the lovely esplanade, he is reminded of our Redemption by the magnificent group representing the Crucifixion. The front figure upon the right of our Crucified Lord is His Blessed Mother. At the rear stands St. Longinus, the soldier that pierced the Divine Heart with a spear. St. John the Evangelist is the forward figure and St. Mary Magdalene is in the rear upon the left of the crucifix. The exquisite representation of our Blessed Savior revealing His Divine Heart to Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque stands in the center of the esplanade. The crowned image of Our Lady of Lourdes is at the end of the esplanade. There are three large buildings upon either side of the esplanade. The building at the right is used for a hospital for sick pilgrims, while the one upon the left furnishes a resting place for the other pilgrims. To the extreme left is the printing establishment of the Annals of Our Lady of Lourdes. The weekly Journal of

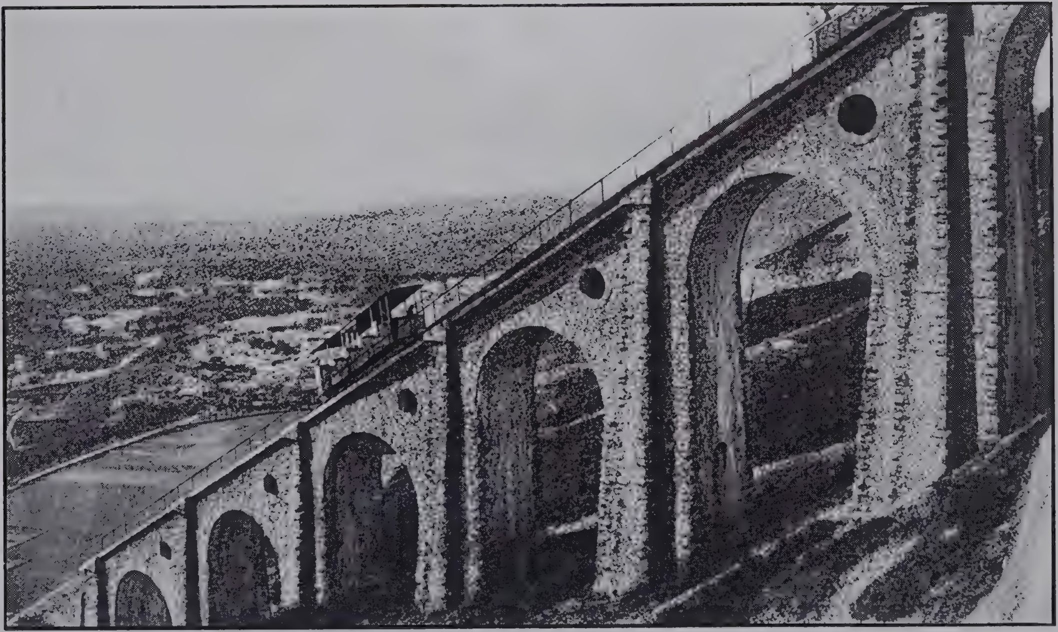
Pie-du-Jer, at an elevation of 12,000 feet. Lourdes, France, in the distance.

the Grotto is printed there. Just across the street that passes in front of these buildings one will see the Rosary Chapel, the finest work of art in Lourdes.

The Chapel of the Rosary was begun in 1883 and was ready for occupancy about 1889, although the wonderful mosaics in this chapel were not finished until about twenty years later. The walls of this Chapel of the Rosary are lined with innumerable marble panels upon which are inscribed the acknowledgments of some of the thousands who have received some great favor through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes. One reaches the grotto by passing through the huge arch of the ramp to the left of the visitor as he leaves the Rosary Chapel.

The upper church is known as the Basilica, which was started in 1862 and finished in 1871. It consists of a basement, known as the Crypt, and the main church. Just above the entrance of the Crypt is the mosaic likeness of Pope Pius X. Its walls are lined with marble panels placed there by grateful patrons of Our Lady of Lourdes. Its windows are marvelous. What attracts the greatest attention, however, is the vast number of flags, banners, war decorations and gifts of every description that adorn the walls of this church, noticeably the beautiful golden banner, a tribute of the Knights of Columbus of the United States. The United States flag has a conspicuous place in the alcove over the main altar.

Legendary accounts of Lourdes, I was told, runs away back, long before the Christian era. It is probable,

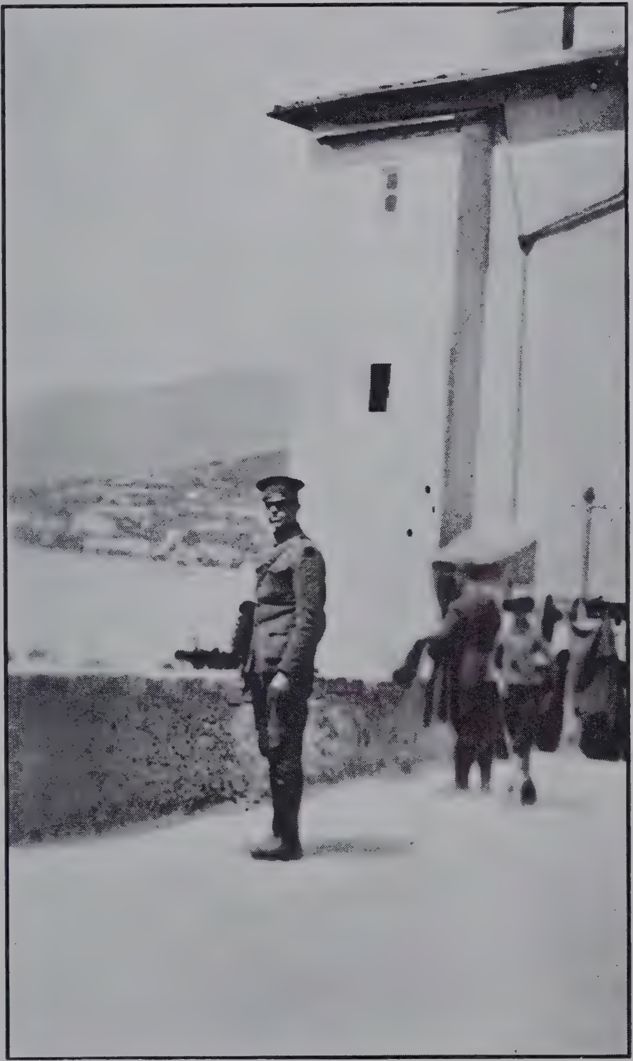


Electric tramway up to Pie-du-Jer. Lourdes in the background.

however, that the Iberians or Basques were the first inhabitants of Lourdes. After them came the Sotiates. One of Julius Caesar's generals by the name of Crassus conquered Lourdes after the inhabitants had offered a desperate resistance. The Moores built the old fort. Many attacks were made upon the fort during the religious wars of the sixteenth century. After the invention of gunpowder the fort lost much of its importance and is now used mostly as a prison. This is the building that was once the home of Napoleon III. I had the special honor to be permitted to visit many places of importance, especially the interior of the fort, the old mill, where was placed the first statue of the Lady of Lourdes, the home of Bernadette, the unfinished church, the convents and the Panorama of Lourdes. This picture covers a canvas of about 2,500 square yards of surface, representing the seventeen apparitions, including the occasion in which Bernadette held her fingers over the flames of the candle. The streets of Lourdes are crowded with old women selling candles in commemoration of this mystery. Near this city is the Pic du Jer. It is a high peak of the Pyrenees mountains reached by a small cog railway. From the "Pic" one sees views which baffles description.

MONTE CARLO

One's visit through France is not complete without a look-in at Monte Carlo, a beauty spot along the Mediterranean Sea, to the southeast of France, where fortunes are made and lost in a day. It is the greatest



A snap shot of Monte Carlo, France, showing the Alps Mountains in the distance.

Across the bay from Monte Carlo, Monaco, France.

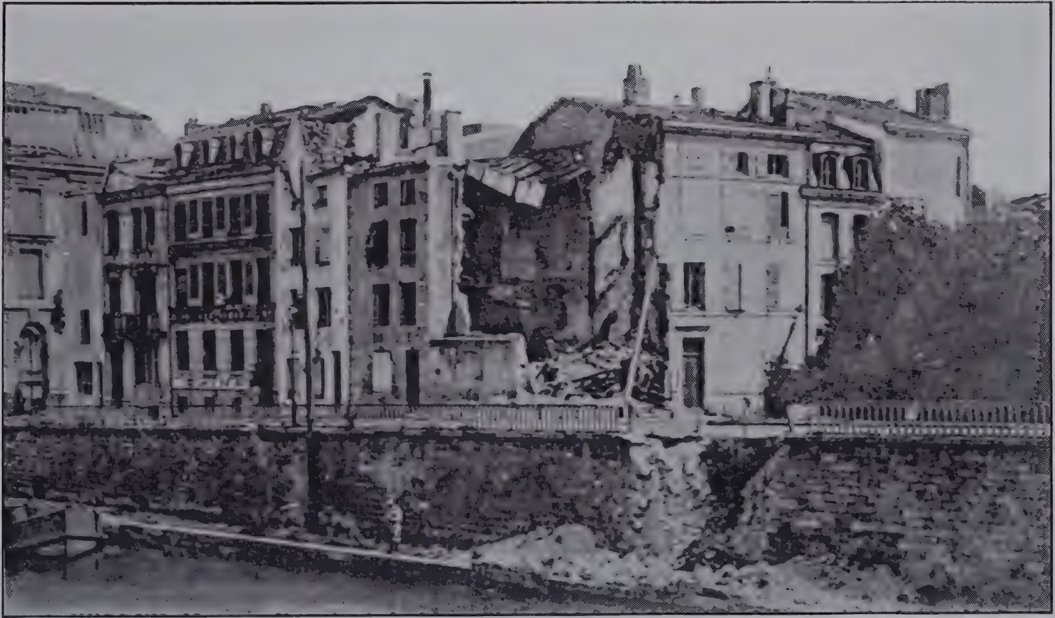
The Casino at Monte Carlo, where fortunes are made and lost in a day.

gambling spot on earth. No person in uniform was permitted to enter the Cassino from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. I carried a special permit to enter from 7:00 to 9:00 A.M. The Cassino was closed during the war. All the beautiful paintings on the walls were covered up with huge canvasses, which were all removed for us. Monaco is the small kingdom in which Monte Carlo is situated. Beautiful marble homes lavishly furnished and marvelous hotels are found in the city; no taxes are collected; permits only are given to build and this is very much restricted. The receipts from the Cassino are sufficient to pay for the government, which has a king for ruler.

CHAPTER XXII

The Devastated Country—Verdun

I believe that I would not do my duty to you if I did not try to give you a word picture of the shell holes made by the use of bombs, especially as I saw them in and around Verdun. I am safe to say that I saw one monstrous shell hole or pit, large enough to upset an average size court house, which would about fill the hole. The sewerage of Verdun was completely ruined. All the churches, the largest structures, composed of cement, stone and tile, were all in ruins. I ate my luncheon which I carried, made up by our army kitchen cook, in a room left intact in the wreckage. It was with difficulty that my chauffeur wiggled about to get clear of the



Verdun—a corner of Chevert place and Republic Quay, destroyed by shells.

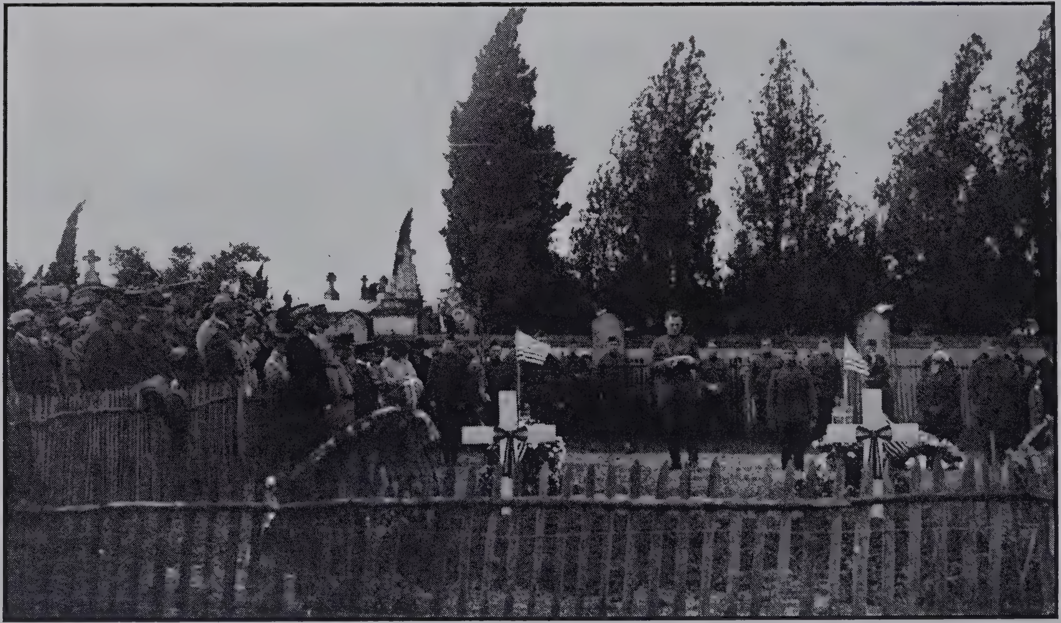
debris as we traveled through the ruined city. The farmland about Verdun was all in ruins. Two or three shell holes to each acre. Here we almost ran out of gasoline, nearly a hundred miles from my base. I was informed that an American supply storehouse was located beyond Verdun. We managed to reach it. Had we belonged to any other than the Seventh Division, we were told, we would have had to do without gasoline. Thus things are in time of war. We got enough gas to return by way of Conflans.

On our return from Conflans we lost our way in the dark. We had to cross the Hindenburg line, which was full of barbed-wire entanglements. We came upon a colored company just putting into camp. They could not help us as they did not know where they were. Finally I saw a faint light glimmer in the distancce; we made for the light and found a French family who directed us to our destination.

CHAPTER XXIII

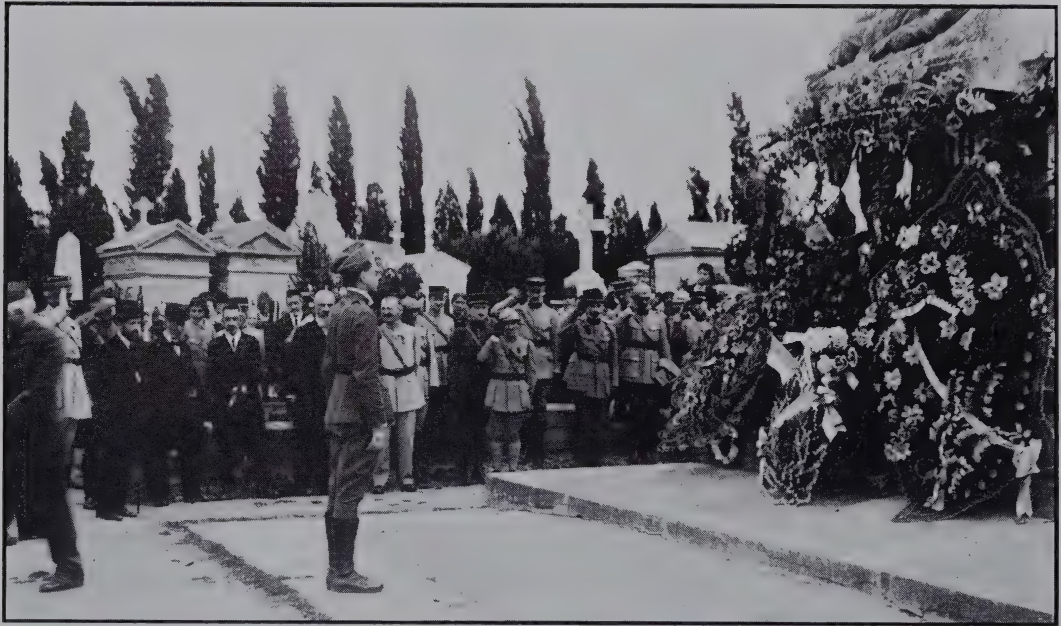
Knights of Columbus and Other Activities

It would not be treating the Knights of Columbus of America right if I did not mention some of their activities in connection with the World War. We must not forget the noble work of the secretaries of the Knights



Knights of Columbus Decorating American graves in France, 1919.

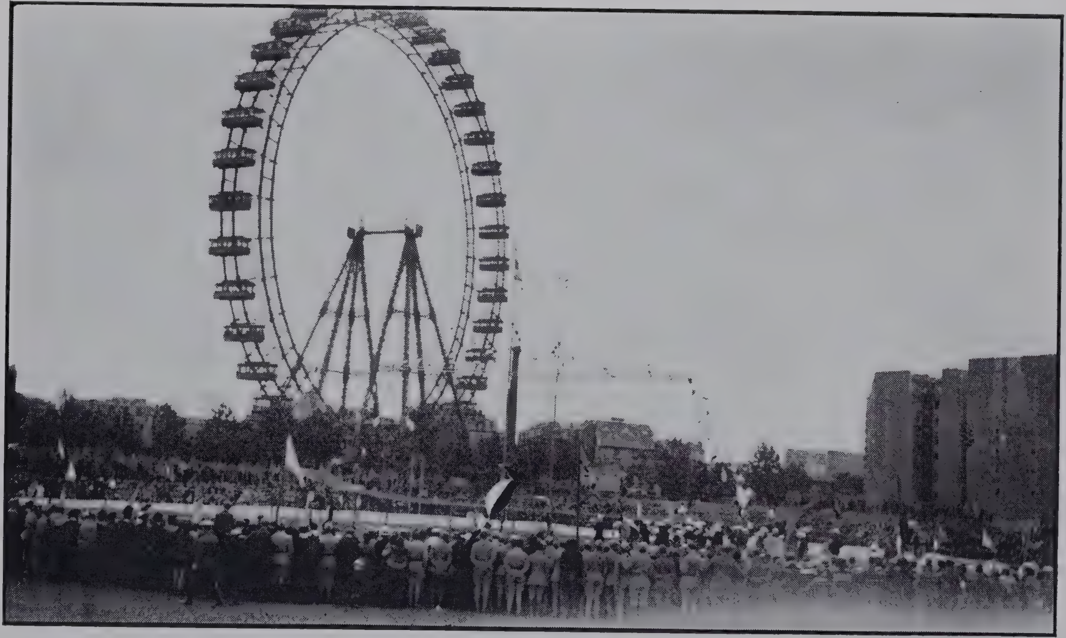
of Columbus. They were known all along the line as ''Casey'' on the job. They did not mind being called ''Casey.'' There were other welfare workers over there, too. There were the Young Men's Christian Association, the Salvation Army and the Jewish Welfare Board, besides the Red Cross. Each organization did credit to itself, and each did things that the other did not do. The Y. M. C. A. was the biggest of the lot. In every town and city of the Allied countries there was one or more Y. M. C. A. headquarters for officers, and ''officers only.'' In many places they took over the work of the army canteens, and to some extent had many things to sell. Everything sent to the Knights of Columbus from the United States was given free to the American buddies. They had nothing to sell. Not a single cent was ever collected from any soldier by the Knights of Columbus. They are the only welfare workers who have that particular record, and they are mighty proud of it, too, although they do not criticize any other organization that had different plans and worked in a different way. Since nothing was sold, there was never a chance for a secretary to make the mistake of refusing supplies to a hungry outfit that had missed connection with their pay roll. Only a selected few handled money in the organization, therefore it could not very well go wrong. These few were known by their dialect, and the yellow chevron worn on the left arm. They were the favorite ones, but the bunch of ''Casies'' always worked together, whenever there was work to do. They had rolling kitchens, the invention of the Knights of Columbus.



Knights of Columbus on Decoration Day, 1919, in France.

They would serve warm coffee whenever and wherever needed. Whenever the army kitchen was not able to provide the rolling kitchen would come along the line and serve to the wants of the tired soldiers. They maintained a special hospital service, where help was cheerfully given. They had stenographers who went around taking dictations from men too ill to write, typing the letter and bringing them back for signature. Soldiers' money was sent to their families when desired. The Knights of Columbus spent more than $25,000,000.00 in welfare work in France alone. Four hundred and seventy tons of supplies were shipped oversea in one month. All went to the American buddies. They had over one thousand secretaries, only a few of whom were girls.

The spirit that animated the Knights of Columbus oversea was that when there was a definite thing to be done, there was always a way found to do it. The 7th Division of the United States Army, to which I was attached, was made up mostly of young men from the south who had been recruited from around Houston, Texas, except the railroad engineer corps who came from almost all parts of the Union. Fully one-half of the regulars were illiterate. Hundreds of letters did I write for them in answer to letters from their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, friends, wives and sweethearts. I conducted a class for them in the second reader, trying to teach them to read. We had a company of colored boys who were highways maintainers. Many told me they had no such treatment and accommodations elsewhere. Besides, I gave them pounds and pounds of



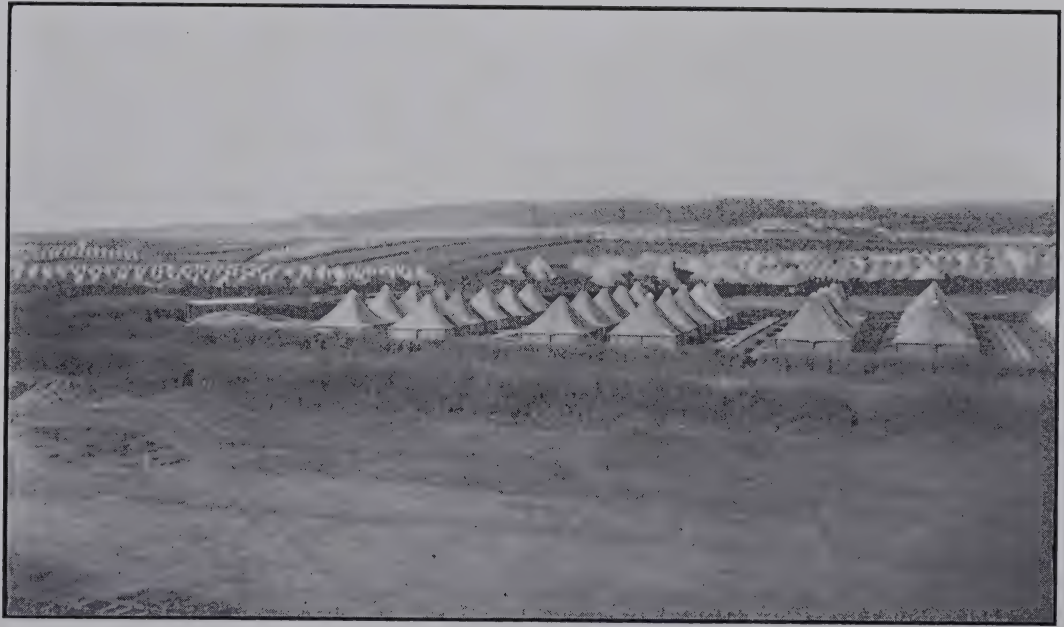
Circus day at Paris, given by the Knights of Columbus, July 4th, 1919.

eatables and tobacco, cigarettes and canned milk. The Knights of Columbus were active in conducting entertainments. These ran all the way from light social gatherings to lectures, movies, plays and even a circus was given through the auspices of the Knights of Columbus in Paris, on July 4th, 1919, on a vacant lot near the Great Ferris Wheel, and in sight of the Eiffel Tower. After the Armistice the object was to keep the soldiers quiet and at rest. Many of the actors in these entertainments were professionals. One of the boys who went across the pond with me, Michael E. Behan, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was the trainer for James J. Corbett, former heavyweight boxing champion, of Bayside, New York. The Knights of Columbus pugilistic activities were exceptionally good and furnished a great deal of amusement for the boys. William J. Mulligan, of Thompsonville, Connecticut, was the chairman of the Committee on War Activities; William P. Larkin, of New York City, had charge of all oversea work; Edward L. Hearn, Lawrence O. Murray and Joseph C. Pelletier were prominent oversea war workers for the Knights of Columbus. The justice of it all was that you did not need to be a Knight of Columbus to be a Knights of Columbus oversea secretary, nor did you have to be Catholic, as we had Protestant secretaries. How about the other welfare workers' organizations? I have no complaints to make. They all treated me ''on the square.''

Many stories are being told about ''Casey,'' some funny, and others are very pathetic. The Knights of Columbus were very active in the Argonne Woods, a region noted for its many rich mines. There were small tramways circulating through the area upon which the metal or products of the mines are carried to large railheads for shipment. Many of these tram cars were left where discarded at the beginning of the war. Our boys would use these tram cars for small ambulances, to haul the wounded and disabled soldiers. The Knights of Columbus secretary would order that a cup of hot soup be brought to these unfortunate buddies who had the misfortune of being crippled by shrapnells, or fragments of the Germans' bombs. When you see and talk to these men who have handled the K. C. war work you begin to understand about the elusive quality of personality that won for them the honorable name of ''Casey'' from the soldiers. They were big men; they were, above all things, human. And they had the big man's habit of going to the heart of the problem undertaken, of caring little for the means and much for the end. My life was endangered three times during my service at the front; once by being gassed, (and I still feel the effects of it), once by an automobile, and once by a large American government army truck. Yet I continued my work. All the ''Caseys'' that I met over there were hard workers. ''Over in the Argonne Woods'' Uncle Joe Kernan was talking to a young American artilleryman who had come over to the K. C. rolling kitchen for something to eat. He was given a cup of warm soup, a cup of hot coffee, sweetened with sweetened milk and a sandwich. When this young soldier had finished eating he started back to his post only a short distance away, along the firing line. When about twenty yards away, he turned around, waved his hand and called: ''Keep coming, Casey, keep coming!'' ''You bet!'' yelled Kernan, and saw a shell fragment kill the young boy as he turned away. This soldier's last words have seemed to be a pretty good motto to the Knights of Columbus ever since. Casey means to ''keep coming.''

A soldier's life on the field of battle is not a pleasant one, and a very dangerous one it is. The discipline of army life is in many cases very stringent. A leave is hard to get. The secretaries, who had free leave, had the freedom of the field. We were often called, even by officrs, to go places regular soldiers were not permitted to go. I carried no gun nor flask, nor did I have use for them.

While at Brest, at the American Army Camp ''Pontanezen,'' while awaiting embarkation for my division, I was called to look up the wife of an American-Belgian soldier, who had made arrangements to have his wife arrive at Brest in time so that they both could visit their native city before returning to the United States. He had word that she had arrived at Brest, but did not know where she could be located. It was left to me to locate her. I secured the help of N. P. Bissonnette, who now lives at 4166 South Normandie street, Los Angeles, California, and D. A. Casey, of 326 Sheridan avenue, Albany, New York, both K. C. workers, to help me in this chase. We located many fraternity homes for Belgians but she was at none of them. I took the matter



American Camp Pantanezen, four miles north of Brest, where 25,000 Americans were camped on June 25th, 1919. The Seventh Division preparing to leave France.

up with the shipping board and learned that she was being taken care of by a Belgian Community Center some distance out of the large city of Brest. Husband and wife were soon placed on a train and taken to their native country to visit their old relatives and friends for a short time, after which they were to return to their adopted home in Boston, Massachusetts.

I am sorry to say that all the war welfare workers were not as honest and energetic as those I have mentioned. About ten miles to the southeast of my headquarters along the American Front, occurred a very drastic act or acts, as it proved to be. In fact it was made a business. Three Y. M. C. A. War Workers, A. Schoeffel, a former president of the Chamber of Commerce of Rochester, New York; the Rev. Adkins, a Methodist minister (retired), of Eagle Pass, Texas, and a Mr. Mansfield, a former secretary of the Seamen's Union of New York City, conspired to default, in a case of embezzlement. It appeared that Schoeffel was accused of appropriating about 87,000 francs, which he secreted and placed in various packages and deposited them with the American Express Company at Toul. A great deal of this money belonged to American doughboys who had given it to him to be sent to the United States to their families. The three defaulters, before their arrest, were investigated by the legal department of the Y. M. C. A. and were caught red-handed with much of the money they had stolen in their possession. The greater part of this money fortunately has been recovered and given back to the owners.

Decoration Day Parade by Knights of Columbus, in France, 1919.

The Rev. Adkins had been detected at Toul after irregularities had been reported. He admitted having in his possession Y. M. C. A. money, part of which was in a trunk which he had stored with the American Express Company at Toul. He had used empty shaving soap tubes and other handy receptacles to conceal it and is said to have dealt in nothing less than hundred franc bills. Some of this money had been invested in French bonds and United States Liberty bonds. Some of these were placed in a false bottom trunk he had deposited with the American Express Company at Toul, France.

Mansfield, who was stationed at Brest, confessed after he had been detected by Y. M. C. A. officials. He had been detected in taking small sums regularly and secreting them in his clothes, prior to transferring them later to a strong box, which he kept in his room.

The three prisoners were ordered deported by the Y. M. C. A. officials to the United States, where they were found guilty of embezzlement and were sent to federal prisons.

Mr. E. C. Carter, chief secretary of the Y. M. C. A. in the A. E. F., asked the army to prosecute them to the limit and to impose full penalty of the law. Mr. Carter told the writer that they had more than 6,000 workers in the A. E. F. and that these were the only three culprits charged with defalcation. During the war they handled 256,137 remittances to the United States for the soldier boys.

I would be doing a great injustice were I not to mention the war work of one noble woman who espoused the rank of the Knights of Columbus war work in France. This person is none other than Miss Elizabeth Marbury, who is a fluent speaker and an entertainer of ability. She was one of the late comers, but her activities in this line was shown in the United States in her ''Win the War Activities.'' She appeared at the Cinema des Arts, 325 rue Saint Martin, Paris, before a vast crowd of soldiers, sailors and welfare workers. She also presented in moving pictures the play ''Chateau-Thierry to Paris.'' Also attractive pictures furnished by Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the Interior in the United States of America, showing active life on the farm and ranch. Miss Marbury carries the distinction of having sold millions of dollars of Liberty Bonds in the United States in ten minutes.

CHAPTER XXIV

Charity Work

It is an old saying that all flocks have black sheep. In such a time during the more than four-year war there might have been many such cases. What I desire to write about here is the *charity offerings.* Many millions of dollars sent from the United States were squandered. The French people, as a general rule, are sincere and honest, but there are exceptions to this rule.

Let me give you a first-hand story of one such organization, and there were many such organizations in France and other war-stricken nations—out of sympathy they flourished. We had what was called the French Orphan Fund. This organization had its headquarters at Paris. They appealed to the sympathy of the American people to make a donation of some sum to help in the support of poor French orphans. You could subscribe for one orphan or more—the more the ''merrier''. The price set was $38.00 per year. Owing to the red tape in the matter you would be asked to contribute $5.00 the first month and $3.00 thereafter for eleven months. Upon receipt of the $5.00 the donor would receive a nice stereotyped letter, supposed to have been written in French by this adopted orphan; there was also enclosed a picture of the child, a boy or girl, as per your choice. The letter also carried a reminder of the future monthly contributions and admonition to be sure of the address.

The wife of Mr. John F. Murphy, one of the secretaries of my company, of Dexter, Massachusetts, had subscribed to the maintainance of one of these orphans. She requested him to make investigations as to this and see the orphan girl she was to support and if possible to have the little girl return with him, as they had a nice home but had no children. Shortly after we arrived at Paris, Mr. Murphy asked me to accompany him in this search. We started in the morning to hunt the place given in the address. We were told to go to another part of the city, and so on all day. We rode on street cars, and I know that we rode many miles, all on a wild goose chase. The next day we started out again. This time we were more successful. At about 11:00 A. M. we located the place in the Red Cross building. We rode up the elevator and on the fourth floor we found the office, a very luxurious one. A young girl greeted us at the call window, and we found that the managing lady was out to lunch, but would be back at 2:00 P. M. The Red Cross building in Paris is located near Notre Dame Catholic church, and this was some distance from the Lafayette Hotel, our stopping place, so we spent the time in the vicinity of Notre Dame and in the meantime had our luncheon. Then we started for the office of our benefactress of ''poor French Orphans.'' She presented herself in a very graceful way, polite in every way, painted and dressed in silks ''fit to kill.'' After we told her our mission, she, in a very polite way, told us that it would be impossible to see the little girl, as it would be an ''offense'' to the mother, and as for adopting the child, the state would not permit it. She thought that we had gone there to give her more money. Mr. Murphy wrote home that day to stop payment on ''this order.''

As I traveled through France I had many occasions to meet the mayors and town and city clerks. I would ask them if they knew any orphans in their town or city getting American money. I found in all my travel only one mayor who told me that he heard one little girl in his town had received $100 American money and he said that he thought she received it through some "pull", as she really did not need the help. Others who needed help got nothing.

There was a Mme. Felix Santallier, whose home was supposed to be at Oakland, California, who advertised extensively for French orphans' money. She claimed that she had procured many American godmothers for as many French war orphans. She operated her system in about the same way. The godparents contributed $3.00 per month, which she said went to the mayor of the town where the child was supposed to live. Mme. Santallier claims that she mailed many hundreds of letters to western benefactors. She also sent photos of the children. I was unable to locate any of them. I once brought the matter to Marshal Joffre and M. Clemenceau, who shrugged their shoulders at the thought, and replied: "Well, if your people are so foolish and have so much money, well, I believe that our people can use it."

"The Whorton shoe fund" was another organization supposed to help the poor by buying them shoes. I suppose much, and perhaps all, went to buying shoes, however I failed to find a single pair of shoes purchased through this fund. The press carried a daily balance from this fund. I failed to find any signs of actual distress in all my travel. The children were neatly and cleanly dressed. On days of display—and there were many—all the people were warmly and well dressed.

On June 23d, 1919, a report came from Bezeu, Roumania, that the people there were starving, in the midst of one of the best oil fields in the world. Before the war this part of Roumania produced big fortunes in oil, as it was one of the greatest sources of European supply. The invading armies requisitioned everything that could be pried loose and transported it home, paralyzing one of the wealthiest industries in the world. Food was at once sent there and distributed among the needy. People were found eating bread made of leaves, twigs and bark from trees. They were bartering the coats off their backs for small portions of corn and coarse bran. In one place, it was reported, the relief workers found a small local hospital in which the patients slept on boards with no mattress and little covering. At another home they found five fatherless children, the oldest only nine years of age, cooking a meal of tree bark, leaves, a little corn meal and some coarse bran, while the mother was hoeing in the fields. Typhus was then breaking out, as was smallpox, said the report, and there was a lack of medicine and no doctors or nurses. The Knights of Columbus sent a truck load of relief consisting of potatoes, flour and meats.

CHAPTER XXV

President Wilson Back on the Job

On Saturday, June 14th, 1919, after seeing my division on shipboard, I was recalled to Paris by way of

Le Manse from Brest. President Wilson was to return to Paris to receive the answer from Germany. He arrived on Friday, June 20th, after a two-day whirlwind visit through Belgium. Open-hearted welcome was extended him by thousands of happy faced children who lined the roads, cheering and waving American and French flags. On June 23d the German government finally agreed, by a vote of 237 to 138, at Weimar, Germany, to sign the *treaty of peace*. All preparations were made to receive the German delegation. Some of the Berlin delegates refused to attend. They said, ''Let George sign.'' This was the long delayed signature that at times it was thought was not coming. But the ''Better Minds'' of Germany knew better than not to sign. It was a great day for Paris and Versailles. Banners and flags of all nations were unfurled to the world. Bands played and the populace danced for joy. It was the greatest instrument that was ever signed in the world. With all the advanced preparation made, it took three hours for the delegates to sign. The great seals of all the nations had been placed prior to the signing. The ceremony of signing this Treaty of Peace with Germany, for which the whole world had been eagerly waiting since the actual hostilities had ended on November 11th, 1918, was held in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, a beautiful villa on the outskirts of Paris, at 3:00 o'clock on Saturday, June 28th, 1919. Herr Bell signed with Herr Mueller for Germany. One hundred twenty representatives signed for the Allied governments, headed by the Big Four, who signed for the victorious powers. Arrangements had been made for the other Entente powers to sign later. M. Clemenceau, the Prime Minister of France, signed first, using a gold pen, bearing a seal, the gift of prominent personages of Alsace-Lorraine. The pen was afterward presented to the French government as a token of love. President Wilson was the second to sign. This great instrument was then taken to the table where Lloyd George sat, and he placed his name there with this gold pen. President Wilson had signed the treaty with a seal ring made from a nugget presented by the State of California at his marriage, the presidential seal being *Woodrow Wilson* written in shorthand, made by President Wilson himself and interwined into an Arabic-looking inscription upon the ring. Premier Orlando, of Italy, was the last of the Big Four to sign. It was brought to his table, whereupon he soon made his mark. Most of the ceremony had been rehearsed on Friday afternoon by M. William Martin, Director of the Protocol. The Big Four had appointed a commission composed of Col. House, Lord Milner, M. Simon, Signor Crespi and Viscount Chinel to draft a model for the mandatories to show exactly how the mandates were worded under the League of Nations provisions. President Poincare of France was a guest of honor to the signing of the Peace Treaty, and among others were Marshal Joffre, Marshal Foch, General Petain, General Pershing, General Bliss, General Haig, General French, General Wilson, General

Mangin, General Gouraud, General Castelnau, General Miatre, and General Bently. There were many ambassadors and other celebrities. The last two to sign the Peace Treaty were the two German signatories. The parchment of the Peace Treaty is of the rarest quality, and bears the golden seals of all the nations' signatories. The tables for the secretaries were with those provided for the press.

CHAPTER XXVI

Germans Doubted Treaty

On the day the Peace Treaty was signed there happened many things which one forgets, especially, that on that day the German delegates refused to sign the treaty until they were sure that they were signing the right *scrap of paper*. They were in doubt. M. Clemenceau had to give Herr von Hanfel, at Versailles, his pledge of honor that the treaty presented the Germans was an absolute copy of the one they had accepted Saturday, February 15, 1919. This is the reason the German delegation was the last one to sign the treaty. They entered the Chateau of the Hall of Mirrors through a side door. After seven delegates had signed, the whole German delegation left the Chauteau by the same exit as the delegates of the Allied nations and military honors were tendered them.

The treaty has been ratified by almost all the civilized nations except the United States, which entered it through a side door. This is what has brought enmity to us from all nations. To have the treaty outlined by the representative delegates of the conference except Japan, and to have it rejected by Congress is what brought this about. So strong was the hatred toward the Americans later that all sorts of stories were circulated tending to injure the feeling of good-will towards them, so much so that the editor of the Kreisblatt published at Montabaur, headquarters of the First Division of Occupation, near Coblenz, was fined 1,000 marks and sentenced to three months imprisonment for printing false statements about the American troops. The story was wholly false and it is believed that it was propaganda to arouse ill-feeling against the Americans in the occupied district, or so the American intelligence service suspected. The story which was copied from his paper and published at large, was to the effect that two American soldiers were killed at a dance at Meudt and that as a result the American authorities had levied a fine of 20,000 marks on that town. The offending editor printed a complete retraction in his paper.

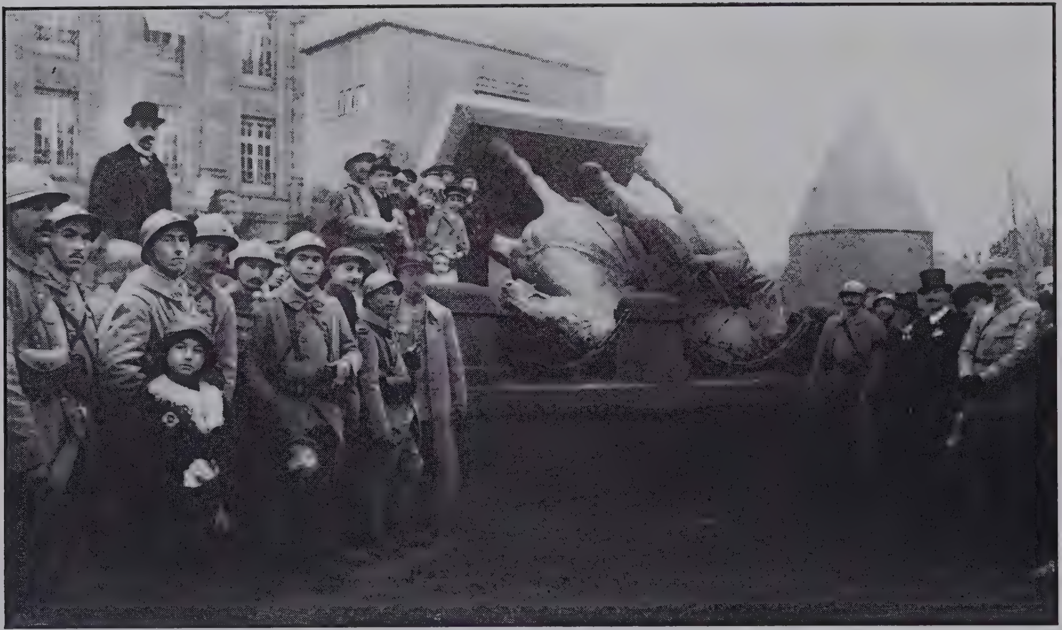
CHAPTER XXVII

Business Recuperates

On the same day that the treaty was signed the German Embassy at Paris was opened and was made the headquarters of the German delegation, about fifty in number. Great rejoicing was manifested by the German middle class, but not so with the upper class, who were very much downcast at their surrender. In Berlin, where the difference was most noted, there were many riots and a number of people lost their lives.

Immediately efforts were made to return home the American army, still in the war-stricken area, with the exception of the Army of Occupation. Orders also were given to all American war welfare workers to board transports for the United States. The war department, however, prohibited the transportation of girls on transports carrying troops. There were several hundred women Y. M. C. A. workers; some Red Cross workers; some Salvation Army women workers; a few women belonging to the Jewish Welfare Board and a few girls attached to the Knights of Columbus Welfare Workers were given passage home on twelve transports that left Brest prior to July 6th, 1919. Several hundred women Y. M. C. A. War Workers, taken from Camp Morgat, were bitterly complaining against the action and order of the war department. They wanted to go home with their buddies. Senator Frank Walsh and Ex-Governor Dunne, of Illinois, left Le Havre for home on the same day the Peace Treaty was signed, and President and Mrs. Wilson left Paris on that day at 9:00 P. M., after he had his work well done.

Many of the secretaries and interpreters were ordered to remain to help in the sale of American war materials, none of which was by agreement to be shipped



Statue of Emperor William of Germany, at Metz, thrown over by German soldiers November 16, 1918.

back to the United States. The United States manufacturers objected to such a plan; the French manufacturers also objected to the promiscuous retail sale of the thousand and one articles supposed to have been war materials, to be thrown on the market in competition with their wares.

It was secretly understood by the ''Lords of War'' that this immense storehouse of wares should be sold to special ''French Lords of Wealth,'' for the contributions made to these ''Bosses of the Fields.'' To be sure these goods were advertised to be sold to the highest cash buyers. We had large sale bills, making it known to the people that so and so was to be sold on such a date at such a place, but no such *sale* took place, and in a few days the property so advertised was taken away. I recall a *sale* that was to have taken place at Pagny-la Blanche-sur-Cote; to sell several hundred horses on April 17th, 1919, at 10:00 o'clock A. M. No sale took place as I know, as I was to clerk the sale. In a few days the horses were taken away, and ten of these same horses were sold at a City Fair Sale at Le Mans on Saturday, June 7th, 1919, by a rich horse trader. Who received the money for this propery I don't know. At Bordeaux were a thousand trucks and automobiles, some new and some used, some in shelter, some in the open field. They were all sold in a lump *sale.* No one knew by whom, nor to whom. Carloads of saddles, harness, thousands of tons of baled hay, piled in the open field, all the remaining goods of the American canteen were disposed of in the same way.

CHAPTER XXVIII

Americans Return Home

Demobilization of the American army soon began after peace was signed. To move an army of men from Coblenz to America in one move would have been disastrous to many soldiers. They had to be acclimated in order to make it in safety. Three moves were the general rule. The final move was to Havre, Brest, St. Nazaire or Bordeaux, from which a farewell leave was taken.

GEN. JOHN H. PERSHING MAKES INSPECTION

On the 24th day of May, 1919, General John H. Pershing inspected the 7th Division at Colombey la Belle. It was a warm sunny day and the entire Seventh was there, the first gathering together of this great company of men and women. It took from ten in the morning until three in the afternoon for General Pershing to complete his inspection of the boys in rank. A number of army brass bands enlivened the air and with banners and flags waving in the breeze made the scene, from the writer's viewpoint, one of the grandest he had ever seen. A grandstand was erected from which General Pershing and several other prominent personages addressed this vast audience. The welfare workers had the honor of being invited to places on this grandstand. During the day while General Pershing was going among the troops in review, he would often stop and give a few words of cheer to the boys, especially to the many cripples that were there. He would stop when he met a crippled soldier and ask questions as to how he received his injury and after a few words of hopefulness, pass along. His presence was cheered wherever he went.

There were more than 40,000 men and women in this group, mostly all Americans. Just a few French officers and a few other dignitaries from other nations were present.

General Pershing's son John was a guest of the division, accompanied by his aunt.

CONDITIONS AT HOME

The khaki-clad buddies were all receiving letters, alluring ones, to return to their old homes, that their old jobs were awaiting them at a salary of from $5.00 to $20.00 a day. That was quite a difference from what Uncle Sam was paying them to be used as fodder before the huge muzzled shell fire mortar on the battlefield. Every warehouse in the United States had been emptied during the World War. Everything conceivable had been shipped to Europe through a dishonest system of "Cost Plus 10 Percent" buying, so that there was a demand for almost everything known, at an inflated price. Their old pay envelopes were awaiting them at home, but sad to say the time came when warehouses were filled and there was no market for the merchandise. No foreign demand for our surpluses, and we experienced one of the worst times of depression ever known.

When the buddies got home they found everybody buying land which had soared to as high as $325.00 per acre, encouraged by the high prices of farm products. I am quoting you the Chicago market as of July 27th, 1919: July corn, $1.79; September corn, $1.75; December corn, $1.53½; July oats, 69c; September oats, 69c; December oats, 70½c. Barley was higher on the new court decision favoring two and three-fourths per cent beer as a non-intoxicating beverage. Wheat No. 1 Northern was $2.55 per bushel; lard, 34 and 35c per lb.; rice, 10¾c per lb.; bacon, 30½c per lb.; milk, 7½c per qt.; and beef, 21c

Through the manipulation of a few monied men of Wall street and other officers of national banks the government permitted them to deposit their gold dollars accumulated during the period of the war with the United States treasury, and they received in place of them twelve national bank gold certificates, which in turn they loaned to you and to me at seven percent interest, payable each six months. It is known that some ''Pet National Banks'' received as high as $117.00 in treasury certificates for each such gold dollar deposited. This caused an accumulation of dishonest dollars in the hands of a few. By dishonesty we received depression.

Immediately prior to the signing of the Peace Treaty another question of national importance sprang up. I have touched upon this lightly before. Europe had been underfed for four years. When the first screened excitement of the sudden stopping of the Great War had passed, and an intimate and searching look at Europe could be taken, it revealed this crowded continent, hungry, sick and tending toward revolution and anarchy, all for the lack of food. If war had created a great war-time world problem, so had it created a great after-war-time problem. And the latter, which is the one of today, is no less serious than the other. America was called upon to lend its powerful aid then, in no less measure than during the war, to save hungry nations from starvation. What are we doing about it now? In the first place the United States Food Administration continued its existence and through its arrangements the large credit for the purchase of food was made in the United States by all the borrowing nations of Europe, backed by the government, that issued damnable bonds to secure the money from you and me, at a very low rate of interest, but the great national bankers of Wall street raked in all the commission and now are leaving all the little suckers ''lose the lost,'' until at present we are passing through one of the worst depressions ever known, and all the efforts of the so-called Refinance, Reconstruction Boards or any board will avail us naught.

CHAPTER XXIX

Shipping Board Shows a Decrease of Tonnage

Shortly after the Treaty of Peace the war department reported that the tonnage used under its direction had dropped to 1,307,000 dead weight tons, as compared with 3,253,000 tons on December 2nd, 1918. Of the total, 1,129,000 tons were being used in bringing the troops home. Troop shipment in December was only 473,000 tons, and other tonnage employed by the war department was 28,000 and cargo 151,000 tons. Many ships then used to bring troops were formerly used as cargo ships. On December 2nd, 1918, 2,402,000 tons vessels were in use as cargo ships. This dropped to 1,652,000 tons January 6th, 1919, and has kept decreasing steadily ever since. This is stated here to strengthen my statement that America has the enmity of Europe.

Switzerland, who had kept herself neutral during the war, was the first one to agree to a League of Nations, but was strenuously opposed to some of its provisions. During all this discussion, the Swiss maintained a strict guard on all roads entering Switzerland. President Wilson soon had the kinks straightened out, which gained for it the home of the League of Nations.

CHAPTER XXX

Description of Cities Visited

In the following chapter I am going to give an offhand description of some of the countries and cities other than those already described. In many things Europe is, figuratively speaking, three hundred years behind the times. Even before the war Europe did not enjoy the same advanced living facilities that were common to Americans. The conditions mentioned in speaking of their railway system and the transportation methods of carts hauled by dogs, the lack of modern conveniences in towns and farming communities well verify this. In going through the different countries I took special interest to note conditions and inconveniences that I had at some time experienced.

In the first place we must remember that Europe had been at war for four years, and the result of this war was telling on everyone there. With the exception of southern France and Germany, the territory in general was half waste land. No effort was made to redeem swampy, marsh land by drainage. Many of their small rivers are canalized, and are still in use for bulky and slow transportation. Many of these canals in the war zones were used to carry war materials, and were made the target of the German air pilots.

IN ENGLAND

Manufacturing and mining is the principal occupation of the large population of England. Farming on a small scale is carried on in the rural districts. Many large reserves are still maintained for the lords, but these are slowly giving way to more profitable industries. They have a good school system, but the long period of the war told on them. Only the children physically fit receive an education at public expense; however, many defectives are taught by private tutors.

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool, in normal times, is a busy city. Being in the western part of England, on the Irish Sea, it dominates the western trade, and rules the grain markets of the world. The city itself is not beautiful. The buildings are mostly all of stone with tile roofs. Some of the oldest churches are found here.

It is an important fortified seaport, is a borough and is the commercial emporium of England. This place constitutes the grand entrepot of trade of the world and possesses shipping interests on a gigantic scale. The famous dock here is nine miles in length and is unsurpassed with regard to massiveness of construction and extent of accommodation and was constructed at a cost of $65,000,000. Liverpool is the main channel of intercommunication between England and the United States. The population of Liverpool at the census of 1931 was 855,539. In 1926 its net tonnage of British and foreign ships engaged in ocean trade arriving in the port was 14,033,955 and of those departing, 13,297.474. The leading articles of import are cotton (85 per cent of all cotton imports into the country), flour and grain, cattle, dressed meat, raw sugar, wool, tobacco, timber, leather, etc. The chief articles of export are cotton goods, iron and steel manufactures, woolen goods, machinery, pig iron, etc.

Among its institutions of learning are University College, Liverpool College, Liverpool Institute, Medical School, schools of art, of applied art and science, and many technical institutes, a nautical college, numerous hospitals and charitable institutions. Municipal ownership has been carried to a great extent and includes public baths, workmen's dwellings and water supply, which brings water from Lake Vyrnwy through an aqueduct sixty-eight miles long, built at a cost of more than $10,000,000.

The city, like many another European city, is laid out in a very peculiar plan, which makes it hard for a stranger to know his directions. On my first day there I had to secure the aid of the police to help me find my way back to the hotel, not because I was physically unable (I was never found that way), but because I was lost. The streets are generally narrow and many are crooked.

LONDON

London is known as the City of Towers. The main city of London is walled in, having huge gates at various locations. Within the walled city are the towers; when not under military stress, one can be admitted to the towers by ticket. There is a deep moat on the outside of the wall, long since dry. The Tower of London was first built by William the Conqueror, for the purpose of protecting and controlling the city in the early part of the twelfth century. The various towers cover an area of about eighteen acres within the Gargen rails. The most important building is the Great or White Tower. These towers were occupied as a palace by all the kings and queens down to Charles II. It was the custom for each monarch to lodge in the tower over night before his coronation and to ride in procession to Westminster through the city. The palace, which is now torn down, stood eastward of the "Bloody Tower." Sir Walter Raleigh was allowed to stroll during his long imprisonment and could sometimes converse over the wall with the passers-by on the walk. Wakefield Tower holds the scene where Anne Boleyn's trial was held. This tower also contains the crown jewels, many of them from the Norman period. They were all in dust-laden cases of glass showing the lack of care during the four years of war. There are about 66 such cases, holding thousands of dollars of valuable souvenirs now held as relics. The church of St. Peter was in existence before 1210, and the White Tower, the place where the Magna Charta is kept, was completed in 1215 and 1216. On Henry the VIII.'s death the first inventory of the royal collection was made. This included the armor and arms at Greenwich, and the arms and artillery of Henry VIII. was one of the sights for foreigners of distinction. In the trouble of the American Revolutionary War the arms were drawn out and there is no doubt much, both of arms and armor, was used and lost. This tower was prepared to receive Kaiser William Hohenzollern if he had been brought for trial to London. He was never molested. These towers cost England millions in money, but today are worthless except as relics. One bombing plane of today could put them out of commission in a few minutes. London is the largest city in the world, with the exception of New York City, including the suburbs. London is a great city for its commerce and manufacturing industries.

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton is a great city in Southern England. It is a large port of entry and has some shipbuilding yards. It, too, has many large buildings and old stone churches built many centuries ago. Here and at Portsmouth are the great naval stations of England.

HAVRE

Havre is a big port in the north of France. Here rests the bodies of many American soldiers, whose graves have been given good care. The city itself is old and a great port of entry from England. Manufacturing and commerce are the main industries. Like many cities in Europe, it is a fortified seaport, but has little protection against modern warfare. The harbor, which is an excellent one and capable of accommodating many ships, possesses two roadways and at its entrance has two lighthouses. The trade of Havre is very extensive, it being the sea outlet of the bulk of the commerce of Paris, and is connected by steam communication with the chief ports of England, besides having a daily flying airline to Paris. During the period of the war the municipal government was kept going through the management and work of the women of Havre. I saw women work on the streets, hauling materials for repairing them on carts pulled by dogs.

The public buildings of Havre are the city hall, built in Renaissance style; the church of Havre, dating back to the 16th century; the exchange, the Palais de Justice, arsenal, and the custom house. The museum has statues of Bernadin de Saint-Pierre and Casimir Delavigne (both natives of Havre), and contains collections of paintings and sculptures and a library of more than 50,000 volumes. The harbor, formed in part by an immense dam, and defended by two forts and a number of batteries, is barely 300 feet in width.

Havre is an important cotton market, four-fifths of France's cotton supply entering through this port. It is also a leading coffee market. Other imports are brass, wool, and tea. The manufactures include rope, wire, dyes, cloth and flour. It has five public warehouses, covering an area of more than 600,000 square yards. The port is autonomous. During the war the city was one of the great bases for the landing of British and American troops. The seat of the Belgian government, after the fall of Antwerp and Ostend, was transferred to Sainte-Adresse, a suburb of Havre, the Parliament meeting at the Hotel des Regates. Havre had a population of 158,022 in 1932.

PARIS

Paris, fortified like all other cities of Europe, is the second largest city in Europe. It is a magnificent city and the capital of the French republic. Divided by the Seine river, the larger and more modern part lies on the northeast. The city has broad thoroughfares known as boulevards adorned with trees and dating back to the development of the improvement effected in the French metropolis during the reign of Napoleon III. Paris is essentially the most striking city of Europe from an architectural point of view. Owing to the limit of this article I will be compelled to simply make mention of its chief public edifices and most characteristic features. North of the Seine river are the palaces of the Tuileries, the Louvre, the Palais Royal, and the Elysee, the Palais de l' Industrie, the Bourse, the Hotel de Ville, the Grand Opera and principal theatres, the Church of the Madeleine; in the *cite* is the great Cathedral of Notre Dame and the Palais of Justice.

These palaces just named have been, at different times, the residences of Catherine de Medici, Charles IX., Henry IV., Henry XIII., the queen of England, wife of Charles I., aid of Louis XIV.

As you go south of the Seine River you find the gardens of Luxembourg, the Invalides, the Pantheon, the Hotel Dieu, the Palais Legislative, Palais of the Legion of Honor, the College of France and the great schools of law, medicine and of military art. These were pretty "rusty," when I visited them. Almost everything was at a standstill owing to the long period of the war. Here, too, I saw the "Jardin des Plantes." Other noted places in Paris are the "Place-de-la-Concorde," the "Vendome" "Royal des Victoires," "Carrousel" and that of the "Opera." In the southwest section of the

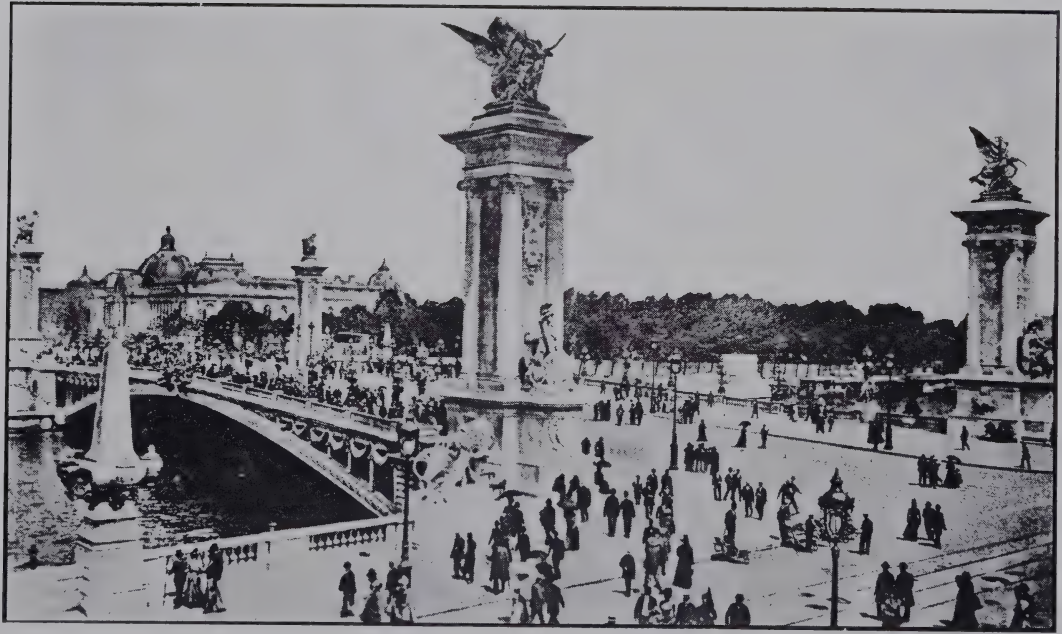
French Capitol building at Paris—home of the French President.

city is the "Champ de Mars," in the west, the magnificent promenade called the "Champs Elysees," where the huge trophies of war were brought from the German lines in the early part of the armistice. The famous "Bois de Boulogne" is near.

Transportation in Paris is first-class and at a nominal fare. You can take a taxi to any place you desire for one to three francs, according to the distance. Street cars run on most through streets. The underground subways will carry you to any place in the city. You can find a station near the place in which you are and you can go to any part of Paris in these "rapide."

The manufacturing interests of Paris are of high importance, embracing as they do nearly all the artistic fabrications that conduce to the comfort and luxury of life.

Paris is connected by railroads and interurbans with the leading cities of Europe. The airports are wonderful. Hourly transportation is maintained. You sure can fly there to your heart's content, and at reasonable rates. All uniformed persons, then, were carried at half fare. All you had to do was to get your passage O. K.'d by the military police. There was an American police station at all the important places along the American Front who would check your working card, permitting you to travel, otherwise it was too bad. You simply had to remain. I was never refused a passway except at Bellegarde, where I was held up owing to international



The Royal Bridge, Alexander III., crossing the Seine River at Paris.

disputes then on the air between Uncle Sam and the government of Switzerland. It was several days before I could have my passport validated.

The chief events in modern history of Paris was its siege by the German army, which began September 15th, 1870, and lasted 136 days. The Parisians, nothwithstanding the sufferings entailed upon them by famine in its most utter sense, as well as by the absolute deprivation of fuel during an exceptionally cold winter, defended their city until the last extremity of human endurance, resisting the Germans as long as a piece of bread and a hope of outside help was left to them; both failing at the same time, January 28th, 1871, the besieged sought an armistice, which was accorded by the beleaguering army. Independent of the actual loss of lives killed in the defense, hunger, cold and disease took away 72,523 Parisians. The city was laid under a contribution of 200,000,000 francs, which Paris agreed to pay upon condition that the German army should not enter beyond the precincts of the ''Champs Elysees,'' on the west outskirts.. A second siege of Paris within the same year, or that conducted by the army of Versailles against the insurgent communists, began March 22d, 1871, and terminated by the victory gained by the former on May 28th, 1871. But victory cost patriotic France the lives of several thousands of men, and Paris lost some of the noblest of her national monuments, destroyed by the communists mob enraged by defeat.

They set fire and burned down the Hotel de Ville, Palais of the Tuileries, the Louvre, and the Palais of Justice, besides the Arsenal, the Court of Accounts, the Palace of the Legion of Honor, the Hotel of the Ministry of Finance and other public buildings, which were all soon rebuilt. The Louvre was the only one of these fine edifices that was saved from utter destruction.

The churches of Paris are marvels of beauty. They are numerous and most stupendous buildings. All the wealth of the early days was lavished upon them; but now, one can see that they are slowly deteriorating. All the church property in France, like that of Mexico, Spain and Russia, is vested in the government, and the members pay a very small rentage for the use of the property. Notre Dame is the finest Gothic church in France, that is, since the war. Chartres and Amiens were more deluxe but were badly injured during the war. Notre Dame has a bell weighing 13,000 kilos. Almost all the churches of Europe are noted for their beautiful chimes of bells, grand pipe organs and wonderful clocks. Some repeat, striking the hour. One clock, in many cases, serves for the entire community. Notre Dame was built 800 years ago.

If you visit this historical spot, by crossing the building Louvre, (the further end of which is behind), you pass through the courtyard of the Louvre, to get out of the Palace by this exit and you come to the famous St. Gervais 'l Auxerrois Church, where so many worshipers were killed on Good Friday morning when a German bombshell came through the roof. The bell of this church—says memory—gave the signal in 1572 for the great religious massacre on St. Bartholemew's day. The weak King Charles IX. ordered this religious massacre at the bidding of his wretched mother, Queen Catherine de Medici, who desired to get rid by force of the leaders of a certain group, of whom Admiral Coligny was the first victim. This painful story has now been redeemed by the government by establishing all the institutions of liberty. All the property, churches, cemeteries, homes of nuns, convents and shrines, are now vested in the government. On the left of the Seine River is Eiffel Tower. Not far to the south is the great Ferris Wheel. At the end of the Esplanade is the military school, and on the other side of the river is the Trocadero Palace. All the schools of Paris are noted ones. The Polytechnic School, the School of Law, the Sorbonne or famous University of Paris, of which Professor Einstein is a teacher, the School of Medicine, the School of Pharmacy and Chemistry, the Central School, the Mining School and the Superior Normal School. The Pantheon is a celebrated monument where rests the remains of famous men and great citizens of France. The Senate meets in the Luxembourg Palace. You will soon come to the Commercial Court of Justice, the Prefecture of Police, and the Hotel Dieu Hospital with its airy chimneys. You can attend the market, which in peace times is something wonderful. Most of the food required to feed the populace passes through this great field of commerce. Here you can buy horse meat in any variety, steak, roast, bologna,

Bird's-eye view of Paris, showing Eiffel Tower and Ferris Wheel.

or mince. All meats are properly labeled, and in many restaurants the meats are cut and served in your presence. Restaurants, hotels and theatres are in abundance and they all cater to the public. Religious life is very low. Licentiousness is licensed. Politics is rampant, and the church is commercialized.

Proselyting was extensively carried on during the war but with little or no effect. It was found among certain classes of welfare workers. You could not change the French. I had occasion to be a passenger on a train going to Nice, in beautiful southern France. Among the passengers with the writer was a lady of nobility riding in the same compartment. After learning that I could speak French she became very interested, and asked many questions about the United States as she seemed desirous of visiting it. She was surprised to know how well I spoke the French language, thinking that I had acquired the dialect since my entrance into France. After learning that up to the age of seven I could speak nothing other than the French language, although I was born in the United States, she understood why I knew it so well. She told me that the French in general, especially the men, cared little for religion, but more for politics and lodgeism. She stated in her conversation that the women of France cared to be well fed, to be well dressed, and have lots of pleasure. This is shown in the ways and manners of the people there. They are great entertainers. The four-year period of the war had a great deal to do with the morals of the French people. The able-bodied ministers of all religious denominations were in the service as chaplains of the army. Many chaplains had been wounded during the conflict and upon being discharged took up their work in the church with but little vim and only among the women and children. The support to the church is small and the incentive for the ministry to the young is very poor. Many old ministers and priests were the watch and clock tinkers and locksmiths of their communities. The Catholic is the predominant church of France, but the Huguenots, Methodists and the Presbyterian denominations are found in various localities. Great demonstrations and display are noticeable at church affairs, such as weddings, baptismals, funerals and the like. Sometimes the gayety, especially at weddings, lasts for several days. Feast days, of which France has many, are notably kept. Groups of girls, gayly dressed in white, are sometimes seen for a week, parading the streets, carrying their long flowing veils. Some men are seldom seen inside the walls of a church except on such days. The French government spends more money on preparations for a celebration of a patron saint than they do for the living soldiers. They celebrate their *fourth* of July on the 14th of that month, and no money was spared to make lavish display of the 14th of July, 1919. All the public buildings are substantially built and built to last. No frequent repairs are made. All the church property, as already told, belongs to the government, but little repairs are made even when badly needed, except by local contributions. Centuries ago when the government was in the hands of the clergy everything went for the church, hence the magnificent and luxurious churches and cathedrals. Only in the larger cities of Europe is the church self-supporting. Collections and donations are constantly asked the millions of tourists who visit these shrines during peace times. There are many abbeys wandering the streets of the large cities garbed in their robes and broad rimmed hats, living on charity. They belong to a sect of monks usually under the jurisdiction of an abbot and the nuns are under that of an abbess, who are independent of all ecclesiastical powers except that of the Pope.

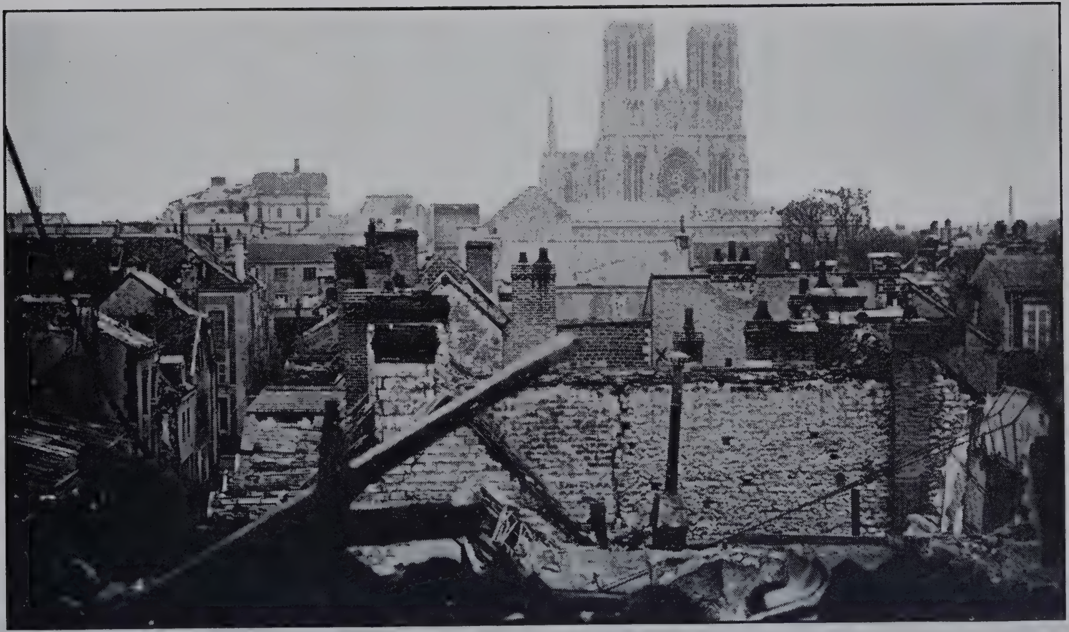
REIMS

Reims or Rheims, (both are correct), was a city, before the war, of about 200,000 population, but now has only 100,998. The city was taken by the German army in the early part of 1914 and by September of that year the French regained it, and thereafter for four years it was subjected to shelling from the north and east by the German army.

The cathedral was damaged irreparably by shell fire, the carving, vaulting and stained glass windows particularly suffering severely. These valuable windows were finally taken out and shipped to Paris for safekeeping. The east and north walls were coated with sacks of sand so as to minimize the damage from the missels of the bomb-shells. The German attacks were heavier during the year 1917 and consequently the civil population evacuated early in April of that year.

In the third battle of the Aisne, which began on the 27th day of May, 1918, the Allied line gave way, the Chemin des Dames Ridge was lost to them and the German troops covering Reims fell back behind the Aisne Canal. On July 15th, 1918, the Germans began their last offensive drive along a fifty-mile front on the north and east of Reims, but the German strength was spent and the Allied counter-attack, three days later, put Reims beyond further danger. However there was very little to salvage. I inspected the place later and found the city had more than 17,000 buildings before the attack, and I found only fourteen to be intact. Many of the ruins had caught fire and were a complete loss.

Reims is 100 miles northeast of Paris, in the department of Marne, on the Vesle river. It became the bishop's see in the year 360 and in the year 496 was the scene of the baptism of Clovis and his chief officers by Saint Remy, the bishop. It became an archbishopric in the eighth century, and from 1179, when Philip Augustus was solemnly crowned there, it became the place for the coronation of all the kings of France. Joan of Arc brought the dolphin here, and the only sovereigns in the long series, down to 1825, not crowned at Reims were Henry IV., Napoleon I., and Louis XVIII. The cathedral was attacked by the populace in 1793, and the sainte ampoule was smashed by a sans-culotte; and in 1830 the ceremony of coronation at Reims was abolished. The famous cathedral, one of the finest specimens of Gothic architecture, was built between the years



Reims—Cathedral in background. Fourteen buildings left intact out of 17,000.

1212 and 1430. Saint Remy, the Romanesque church, built in 1160-80, has a saint's shrine.

Reims is one of the principal entrepots for the wines of Champagne, and one of the great centers of the woolen manufacture in France, where its woolen goods, mixed fabrics in silk and wool are noted the world over.

CAMBRAI

Cambrai is about 121 miles due north of Paris. It was a prosperous city of about 30,000 people before the war. Now the population is about 26,000. It is in the Nord Department (French Flanders) on the Scheldt river. It was the seat of an extensive textile industry and contained, besides, a number of sugar mills, soap factories, tanneries, and many other industrial establishments. It was known to the Romans under the name of Camaracum, and it was then one of the chief cities of the Nervii. Charlemagne built its fortification and it was long governed by its bishops. The League of Cambrai was formed here. It consisted of the Pope, the Emperor of Germany, and the kings of Spain and France, and their object was the destruction of the Republic of Venice. Here also, in 1529 was signed the treaty known as the ''Paix des Dames.'' (Ladies' Treaty), because Louise, mother of the French king, and Margaret, an aunt of the German emperor, conducted the treaty. It was the scene of terrible struggle during the World War. Two very important battles were fought here. The British advanced against the German army here in

November, 1917, and an Allied attack was made against them in September and October, 1918. The French and British armies fell back, fighting fiercely, through Belgium, after the battles of Mons and Charle-le-roi (August 23 and 24, 1914).

In order to cover the retirement of the French and British, by using the infantry and cavalry, they attempted to strike the German flank; but with inferiority in numbers, equipment and training, they were rapidly driven back, and Cambrai fell to the Germans. The city was outside the battle zone, but within the German lines, from the 26th of August until the end of 1917.

The British Tank Corps had been preparing a very drastic plan of attack during the summer of 1917 by using the tanks in mass formation to support the advancing infantry, and the abandonment of the intensive preliminary bombardment. The point of operation selected was on the front of Byng's third army, west of Cambrai, where he permitted the use of the tanks. This was the first use of huge tanks in the war. Two corps of infantry and 350 tanks were used in this attack. The Hindenburg Line here consisted of three lines of trenches dug ten or more feet wide, which the huge tanks crossed with ease. However they were unable to cross the Scheldt Canal, but by covering the infantry with their fire they enabled them to force a passage. The British then advanced in places to a depth of 10,000 yards, and by the close of that day had taken the three trenches of the Hindenburg Line and they captured Graincourt, Masnieres, and Marcoing, and had penetrated Bourlon Wood. Both tanks and infantry had suffered severely and on the following day the attack was resumed, but the position of Cambrai as a railroad junction allowed the Germans to assemble strong reserves and to throw them into the struggle. The British attack of November 25th, 26th and 27th showed signs of flagging energy and pep, though their gains had been held against fierce German counter-attacks. The British had taken from the Germans about 150 guns and about 12,000 prisoners. The demonstration of the use of armored tanks in warfare had been clearly shown, especially as an instrument for breaking strong entrenchments, protected by barbwire entanglement. The Germans, on November 30th, 1917, resolved to clear Cambrai and there instituted a series of violent massed attacks which were continued through December 6th. The result was that the British lost much of their recent gains of ground, together with about 9,000 prisoners and the 150 guns. The British lost in the first battle about 46,000 men. The British then increased the length and strength of their tanks. They were made 33 feet in length so they were able to cross streams as well as trenches.

The second battle of Cambrai then took place. The Allies advanced against the ''impregnable'' Hindenburg Line. This line had been made into the strongest defensive system the world has ever known. It was nowhere less than 6,000 yards wide, and in places was 10,000 yards wide—yes, some places 15,000 yards wide.

The trench lines about 1,000 yards apart, were considered proof against tank and infantry attack. They began the attack about 5:20 on the morning of September 27th, 1918. Fifty-three tanks went over the top led by the infantry, and after severe fighting, Bourlon Wood, Fresquieres, Ribecourt and Bourlon were taken.

At the close of the first day the Hindenburg Line had been broken, north of Gouzeau Court had been taken, and over 12,000 prisoners and 250 guns had been captured. This simply took the kinks out of the German soldiers, and seriously shook the morale of the German people. On September 28th the British added to their territory Marcoing, Sailly, and Fontaine Notre Dame; crossing the Scheldt Canal they broke through another section of the line. General Haig, on a front line of twelve miles, on September 29th, threw three corps, including Americans and Australians, supported by 150 tanks, against the southern section of the Hindenburg Line. The American troops of the 27th Division encountered strong resistance and unfortunately the 301st battalion of American tanks found itself caught in an old mine yard which destroyed many of their tanks. The American 30th, however, stormed Bellicourt, then they occupied Nauroy, and broke through the whole German center. One of the most famous exploits of the Americans was the crossing of the Scheldt Canal by the 46th Division, equipped with life belts made of inner tubes and mats, and rafts, many of its men swimming the canal with their guns carried over their heads. The Canadians pushed forward the same day toward the northern outskirts of Cambrai. Soldiers from New Zealand came to help on October 1st, and by October 9th they entered the city, finding it in ruins and in flames, the last vandalism of the departing enemy.

By September 27th and October 5th the Hindenburg Line was shattered for a distance of forty miles. The Germans had thirty-nine divisions in the struggle, the Americans had two, the British, thirty. About 40,000 prisoners were taken, together with 400 guns. This was the turning point of the war, from the decisive character of the German defeat and the effect on the German morale, for it led the German staff at once to open negotiations for peace.

SOMME

The history of the great World War would not be complete if I would not relate something of the Battle of the Somme. The first battle of the Somme was fought a few days earlier than had been planned so as to divert the German attack from Verdun, July 1st, 1916. Somme is a department of France formerly of the province of Picardy. It touches the English Channel on the northwest, has an area of 2,443 square miles and had a population of 500,000. It is a level and fertile country. Fruits of all kinds are in abundance, especially apples, and its cider is famous. The textile industries, hemp, wool, cotton, linen, silk spinning, and the weaving of mixed stuffs, cloth, velvet, and carpets form the principal mechanical employments, but there are also large iron foundries, lock, soap, candle, paper, chemicals, and sugar beet factories, distilleries, and breweries. Amiens is its capital and it has a population of 92,000. Arrangements had been going on for months behind both the Allied and German lines. Troops, ammunition, artillery and supplies were moved up on a huge scale. The Germans, as I have told you before, had been building themselves in till their fortifications of concrete, barbed wire and their steel and concrete machine gun replacements seemed impregnable. As the operation had to be an offensive one on the part of the Allies so as to relieve the pressure on the French at Verdun, it amounted to a siege of the very strong entrenched German position. The Allied artillery started a shelling program on June 24th, and at 7:30 a. m. on July 1st, 1916, the British and French infantry advanced to the attack. Fricourt and La Buisselle were taken by the Allies on July 5th, and Contalmaison was about to give up, and did so a few days later. Bianches, the last stronghold of the German first line, was taken July 7th. They then began to move against the Germans' second line. From then on most of the fighting was with large artillery by the use of trenches, dug-outs, bombs, shells and gas. Soon after Trones Wood and Mametz Wood were taken from the Germans.

The German counter-attack began at Delville Wood on July 18th at daybreak, and resulted in a gain of territory which they had lost in the preceding fighting. The British had lost about 170,000 men up to this time.

The heavy casualties and big drain on the ammunition supply prevented the Allies from heavy fighting for a few weeks. They began again on August 14th and stormed Guillemont and advanced on Clery and Peronne. The English, single-handed, captured Ginchy, and the German counter-attacked and re-captured it. Clery was then taken by the French. The Germans now realized the seriousness of their position and Ludendorff and Hindenburg, mindful of their heavy losses, planned the famous Hindenburg Line, which was a heavy fortified sector that the Germans hoped to utilize if forced to retreat further. Morgal and Le Sars were attacked by the Allies on September 15th. The ground was too much torn by shells and the huge holes made by them made it unsafe to use tanks. A barrage was started again on September 25th, and kept it up until November 20th. The Germans up to this time had lost 450,000 men; the Allies had 40,000 German prisoners, 125 huge guns, 136 trench-mortars and 500 machine guns. The British losses in the Somme battle of 1916 were 23,000 officers and 476,500 men.

The Allies had gained almost 1,000 square miles of territory which included twenty-five villages, all of which had been totally destroyed by shell fire. Hindenburg and Ludendorff commanded ninety-six divisions, or half of the German army, while General Haig commanded the British and Joffre, the French. Verdun was no longer being passed, the morale of the German army was seriously shaken and the heavy losses in men and ammunition took months to recuperate.

The Germans reached the Hindenburg Line early in 1917, as a result of the Somme battle, which forced their withdrawal.

The second battle of the Somme was fought early in the year of 1918. Von Ludendorff decided to lead the offensive in order to enable him to reach Amiens and cut a way through the French and British armies. The Germans planned to concentrate their forces on this drive, bring every available man and gun to bear upon it and in this way they hoped to open up a terrific barrage and by an overwhelming drive force the Allies back to Amiens and Paris, and win the war. I get this from von Ludendorff's letter which is given in this work. (Chapter VII.) The Germans moved their forces by night on March 20th with an army of 800,000 men. The Allies, although expecting an attack, were surprised at the number. The whole German force was there, their other fronts were vacant but this was not known to the Allies. General Gough, of the British army, held a sector forty-two miles long, from Berisis to Gouzeaut Court, with a force of 300,000 men, and they bore the brunt of the initial attack. All the military roads behind the Allies' lines were under direct shell fire. Telephone lines were all broken down, and when the German troops made their first attack, General Gough withdrew his troops, knowing the superior force before him. Reinforcements were not available and when the Germans reopened the attack on March 22d General Gough was again forced back east of Somme, crossing the river, where he took camp on the west bank, while the Germans took the Crozat Canal. On March 23d the Germans took Peronne and Ham, pouring in hordes through the British lines and completely disrupting the whole Allied front. Reinforcements arrived to strengthen the French on March 23d, but the line between Gough's army and General Byng's third army was very small, and General Haig called on France for aid in his sector, on March 25th. The French sent him twenty French divisions that were hastily summoned from their African possessions, and they were detailed to cover the approach to Amiens, that was being bombarded by the Germans. By this time, (March 26th), the Allies' position was desperate and an Allied conference was hastily called at Doullens, about twenty miles north of Amiens. This is when the executive council of generals was found to be too slow to cope with the emergency, and it was decided that General Foch was to be appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the Allied armies in France, thereby establishing unity of command. The American engineers had been under General Carey and had helped to hold the sector east of Amiens, which by its heroic resistance prevented the Germans' advance. Foch had begun to get up the French and British reserves; the section east of Amiens for twelve miles was completely covered, and the German offensive broke down. An Allied counter-attack repulsed the Germans on March 30th and took Demium and during the next few days the fighting dwindled down to sectional outbursts and the famous Ludendorff drive was at an end. The British lost in this struggle about 200,000 men and the Germans about that many.

Thirty British divisions had been engaged (including Canadian and Australian) and fifteen French divisions against one hundred German divisions. The Allies brought down 850 airplanes against 220 brought down by the Germans, and they had captured 190,000 prisoners and 1,100 guns. The Allies had captured more prisoners and guns than at any other combat. It had been the largest scale operation of the war, and the Germans had never been nearer defeat and complete demoralization, and it was the last grandstand play made by them and almost succeeded in terminating the war.

CHATEAU-THIERRY

This is where many Americans had their headquarters. Chateau-Thierry is the capital of a French arrondissement in the Department of Aisne, situated sixty miles northeast of Paris on one of its main railroads. Many ruined castles tower above it on the heights, on the right bank of the Marne river. The Champagne district is northeast, whose wine of that name is famous. Besides its wine trade, the city is noted for the manufacture of musical and scientific instruments and woolen yarn; stone of fine quality is quarried near by. It had a population before the war of nearly 10,000; in 1932 it had 7,700.

It was occupied in the early days of the World War by the German army, but it was taken away from them by the British in the early part of September, 1914, and was occupied by the Americans troops in action in the early part of 1918. The second battle of the Marne river was fought near Chateau-Thierry. The 6th French army took their place in resisting the German advance, held on during the fateful days of June and July, 1918, and took part in the counter-offensive launched on July 18th. The point of the salient which the Germans had driven into Chateau-Thierry by May 30th threatened to open up the road to Paris, the German goal. On May 31st, the 7th Machine Gun Battalion of the 3d Division of the United States Army was rushed into the town which was held by the French colonials. It covered the retreat of the French and the next day they passed to the south side of the Marne above the town. The American boys with their guns held the place until June 4th, and prevented the Germans from crossing the river. On May the 30th the 2d and 3d American Divisions were ordered to advance in order to protect the Metz-Paris military road through Chateau-Thierry, and they took up position on the east and west of the town. The 2d Division was attacked by the Germans on June 3d. The 43d French Division assisted the Americans to hold the post. The American 26th Division, known as the Yankees, relieved the 2d from July 5th to July 9th, while the 167th French Division joined their lines to Chateau-Thierry. General Liggett was in command. At this time the 3d American Division, under command of the French, still held it, but General Keystone was later placed in command of the 28th Division.

On July 14th an artillery duel was held by the American and French batteries, proving their superiority 84 to 1 against the Germans.

The Germans now started their "Peace Offensive," on the line from Chateau-Thierry eastward to Chavigny. They did not, however, attempt to cross in front of the 4th Regiment, holding the left line nearest the town, but proceded further east on the 7th (my division), the 30th and 38th. The fifth and last German offensive failed. Marshal Foch began his counter-offensive on July 18th and the First American Corps at Chateau-Thierry acted as a pivot while the west side of the salient was being broken. The 26th Division swept to the north and east and crossed the Chateau-Thierry-Soisson military road on July 21st. On the same day the 3d Division, which then occupied the east of town, began crossing the Marne river and the breaking of the east side of the salient was begun. Thus Chateau-Thierry, that had been previously sacked by the Germans, was passed in the advance of the 3d and 28th Divisions and were held until the Armistice.

SAINT QUENTIN

This name sounds familiar to our Americans, as many of our A. E. F. boys were sent there at the beginning of our service overseas, helping the French and English do their fighting, but getting no honor as it never was even mentioned that Americans had been there.

Saint Quentin is an arrondissement (district) in the Department of Aisne, France, about ninety-five miles northeast of Paris, on the Somme river. The leading products of that department are cotton and woolen textiles, sugar, machinery, billiard balls and engines. They now have a population of about 50,000. A severe battle was fought there in the war of 1871, in which the French received a crushing blow from the Prussians. The French command was under General Faidherbe.

The Germans held it in the World War from August, 1914, until October 1st, 1918, when it was recaptured by Americans, British and French troops. They were entrenched in an underground tunnel that led to the Hindenburg Line, through which the Saint Quentin canal runs.

One of the great battles of this war was fought there, known as the Battle of Saint Quentin or of Picardy, March 21st, 1918. The American boys, aided by the Australians, drove the Germans out of this tunnel on September 27th, 1918. The American 27th and 30th Divisions, comprising the 2d Corps under Major General George W. Read, did most of the work.

Thousands of the German army were housed at Saint Quentin for a long time, from 1914 to 1918. The same as at Mont Sec, they were living like lords. They had electric power and light, equipment of the latest and most up-to-date design, musical instruments, billiards, pool tables, etc., etc., fit for kings. All of this paraphernalia was junked as contraband of war. The French citizens who ventured to remain during this period of hostility suffered much hardship at the hands of the Germans. Vandalism was rampant, and there was no way for the French to resort to punishment for this dastardly work.

PONT-A-MOUSSON

Pont-a-Mousson is situated about eighteen miles southeast of Metz. It was occupied for a long time by the American army, and was the headquarters of the Seventh Division for some time. The place is known for its manufacture of pottery, beet sugar, woolen goods, plush and velvet, also for its extensive iron foundries. It is on the banks of the Moselle River and the capital of the North Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle. In this war struggle it played quite an important part. The place was taken by the Germans on September 5th, 1914, but was held only seven days when the French drove the Germans from the city. It was thereafter held by the Allies as headquarters, despite intermittent shelling and a big concentrated German effort to recapture it in March, 1917. The American 1st and 4th Corps, then occupying Pont-a-Mousson, assailed the southern front of the enemy near St. Mihiel, then held by the German army, September 12th, 1918, from Pont-a-Mousson to Richecourt. Many daring stories have been told of the heroic work of the American boys while located here. There were very few buildings here that did not suffer from the huge shells fired upon them by the German batteries. October 7th, 1918, found the front line of battle only a few miles east and north of Pont-a-Mousson. The Germans had set countless mine traps in the dugouts and trenches, before they evacuated them. Lieut. N. P. Bissonnette, who was the K. C. secretary at that place for a long time, told me that a squad of American boys who were making inspection of these works, although they were warned of the danger, were blown up by a mine thus set as a trap by the Germans. Only a small fragment of the twelve bodies was found. This danger existed for a long period after the armistice was signed. In accordance to the terms of this agreement the Germans were to destroy all such traps, so the peasants would not be endangered as they returned to their devastated homes and fields. Some of these mines were not located for a long time after the armistice and many persons were killed or wounded from the explosions caused by coming in contact with them while plowing for their crops. I was told that while an old peasant farmer was plowing with a team, consisting of a milch cow and a horse, he struck one of these mines in his field and it exploded, killing him and his team. So powerful was the charge that the man's head was all that was found of his body. Only small parts of the plow were found. O war! What glory is there in war? The glory should go where it belongs.

To me it is an interesting fact, and one not without international significance, that although the American Expeditionary Forces were aggressively engaged in the war only from about June 1st until Noevmber 11th, 1918, a little period less than five and one-half months, there was hardly a portion of the whole Western Front on which some part of these forces did not see active and very important service. Thus, though the greater part of the work of the American armies was done in the region between the Moselle River and the Argonne Woods, which from the beginning had been destined as the principal zone for conditions confronting the Allied armies, yet from March 21st onward to the middle of July it was necessary to employ American divisions wherever they were most needed at any given moment.

Even after the initiative passed to the Allies it seemed to me it was wise to use a certain number of American divisions directly with the armies of the other Allies rather than in the zone devoted exclusively to American operations, only that credit should be given them for so doing, which the other Allies do not like to do, but wanted to take the honor exclusively. The result was that from the first to the last American troops had experience all along the front line; in the mountainous districts of the Vosges, the plains of the Champagne, the rolling hills between the Marne and the Vesle and those between St. Quentin and Cambrai, and on the flat of the low countries in France and Belgian Flanders, fighting in the several districts of Pont-a-Mousson, side by side with troops of France, England and Belgium, without a murmur coming direct from the common buddies.

It was the 27th and 30th United States Divisions, permanently linked together under the Second United

States Army Corps, that spent their entire time of active service on the British front and under British army command. During this service in a number of important battles fought and vital successes thereby gained, in casualties suffered, and losses inflicted upon the enemy, these divisions made a record for themselves worthy to stand beside that of the best American fighting units wherever engaged. It was their privilege, with British comrades and their commanders, to experience common struggles and triumphs of the same sort that other American divisions experienced with French comrades, and to establish in their zone of activity that mutual respect and confidence which was during the war, as it must continue in the future, the best safeguard of civilization.

The following A. E. F. Divisions were in action at these various locations on the 23d of May, 1918: 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th Divisions were on the Eastern Front around Pont-a-Mousson; the 36th, 80th and 89th near Brest; the 88th and 90th at Saint Nazaire and the 6th, 7th and 81st were at La Mans; the 40th at Bordeaux. On the 30th of April, 1919, there were: 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 81st, 88th, 89th and the 90th on the war front; the 36th and 80th were at La Mans; the 28th, 29th and 79th were at St. Nazaire; the 32d and 35th were at Brest and the 78th and the 82d were at Bordeaux. Other divisions were stationed at other places. But in the end all this glory and all this honor leads but to the grave. Our American boys in the A. E. F. made a very strong impression upon the mind of the European people. Their gentle discipline and stern demeanor and physique, tall, erect, many of them more than six feet in height, young and robust, created, as they marched the streets of French cities, a wonderment, that would often cause the citizenry to exclaim: ''Voila American.'' (There go the Americans). They would comment upon the broad shoulders of our American boys as compared to the soldiers of the European armies who were short, lean and in many cases, weak and without pep. Our boys were always encouraged and cheered.

The many wars in Europe which made the stalwart youth a target, leaving only the weak to take his place in the making of the future generations, was the reason the European armies did not measure to the standard of our American soldiers.

TOUL

Toul figured in the war as a base for supplies for the Allies. It was this city that furnished me with supplies, and many American boys visited the place or were sent there when wounded or sick, as Toul had one of the best military hospitals in France. Toul is a fortified town in the French department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, twenty miles west of the seat of the Canton Nancy. It has a most beautiful cathedral, the building of which was begun in the year 965 and was not completed until 1496. The west front towers are almost 250 feet high, and the building is considered as one of the grandest in France.

Their Hotel-de-ville is a splendid structure. The population is not large, about 12,000, and in peace times they are engaged in the manufacture of lace and hats. In the latter part of the Middle Ages and later down to 1552 Toul was a free city of the German Empire. In 1552 it was seized by Henry II. of France. Its fortifications were reconstructed in 1790 upon the Vaubanian principle, but its present value is nil. They still maintain it as a guard with three gates for entrance to the city. Some American Headquarters were near Toul, surrounded by barbwire entanglements which were made at Muncie, Indiana. The city carries marks of the struggle with Russia in 1814 and on September 23d, 1870, it was captured by the Germans, after a siege of nearly six weeks.

LE-MANS

This name is familiar to many American boys who camped near it during the war. It has a population of nearly 100,000 people. It has figured in many battles. Here an important battle of the Franco-Prussian war was fought January 10th-12th, 1871. General Chanzy, of France, was defeated and lost 22,000 prisoners. During the World War it was one of the ''rest stations'' for the American army. Here was stationed a large and up-to-date de-lousing station, where all Americans, men and women, had to go to get de-loused. Napoleon Bonaparte once lived here and his chateau is still in use. The principal industries of the city are lace making, shoe making and the manufacturing of chemicals.

NANCY

Nancy is also a familiar name to our American boys. This city of 115,000 population is about 220 miles east of Paris. It is the capital of the South Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, France, on the Meurthe River. It played a prominent part in the World War. The battle between the French and Germans near here was fought from August to September, 1914, and is sometimes known as Le Grand Couronne, a title derived from a technical fortification term ''Couronne,'' meaning an advanced earthwork, moving along. The action at this place extended over a territory of more than ten miles fronting Nancy, the Grand Couronne being a well-defined range of wooded heights standing before the city, separating the valley of the Moselle River from that of the Seille River. The struggle here was such that it was divided into three parts, each geographically separated from the other, although success or failure of any one would have acted and reacted on the other. First was the fighting in the Argonne woods, a thickly wooded range of hills, crossed by few roads and with heavy clay soil, making the roads impassable in wet weather. The second was the Woevre, a plain between the heights of the Meuse and Metz, and third, the Vosges, which embraced the whole district from Nancy south to Alsace. In this last district, late in August, the French took up the plans of General Pau at the point of advance from the north earlier in the month, and slowly worked their way along the crests of the hills north of Nancy, and at the same time carried on a campaign in Alsace, with two armies working co-jointly, one on hills and the other on plains. General von Herringen, who was commander at Morange, was here pitted once more against Castelnau. When Namur fell the armies began to fight at Nancy as early as August 23d. The fight extended from St. Die, at the foot of the Vosges River through the forest country east of Nancy, to Pont-a-Mousson, on the Moselle River. The fiercest fighting was done on September 6th, when the presence of the Kaiser incited the Bavarians to a desperate assault, and it continued without intermission for three days, or until the famous White Cuirassiers were repelled under fire of the French 75mm. guns, which did deadly work at close range. On the 9th the French took the offensive, and after a desperate bombardment drove the enemy out of the Forest of Champenoux and took Amance, which is a part of the Grand Couronne. Farther south during the next two days the Germans were driven out of St. Die and evacuated the line of the Meurthe River. By the 12th the main fighting was over and Castelnau occupied the town of Luneville, which had been in German hands from the 22d day of August. No further struggle was attempted at or near Nancy.

Many of our officers, after the armistice, took postgraduate courses in some of the many schools of Nancy.

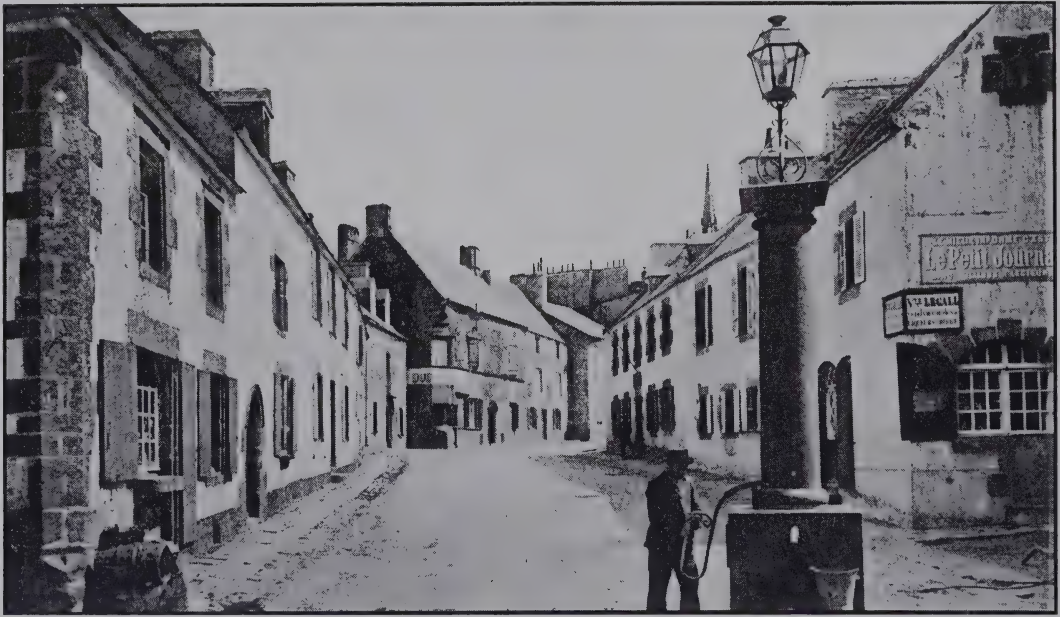
The occupation of the people of this city, during peace time, is the manufacturing of machinery, cotton and woolen goods, artificial flowers, shoes, guns, watches, gloves, chemicals, iron and cigars and tobacco. Its breweries are among the largest in France, and it is an important railroad center.

CHAPTER XXXI

A Bath in the Atlantic Ocean

On Tuesday, June 10th, 1919, in company of N. P. Bissonnette, now of 4166 South Normandie street, Los Angeles, California, and Prof. D. A. Casey, of 362 Sheridan avenue, Albany, New York, I proceeded by tram cars on a jaunt to Le Conquet, the most western point of France on the Bay of Biscay, a part of the Atlantic Ocean. Le Conquet is one of the beauty spots of France in the Brittany valley. It is noted in summer for its ocean baths. Thousands of tourists from all parts of the world go there to bathe in the ocean and get some of the best fish dinners known the world over.

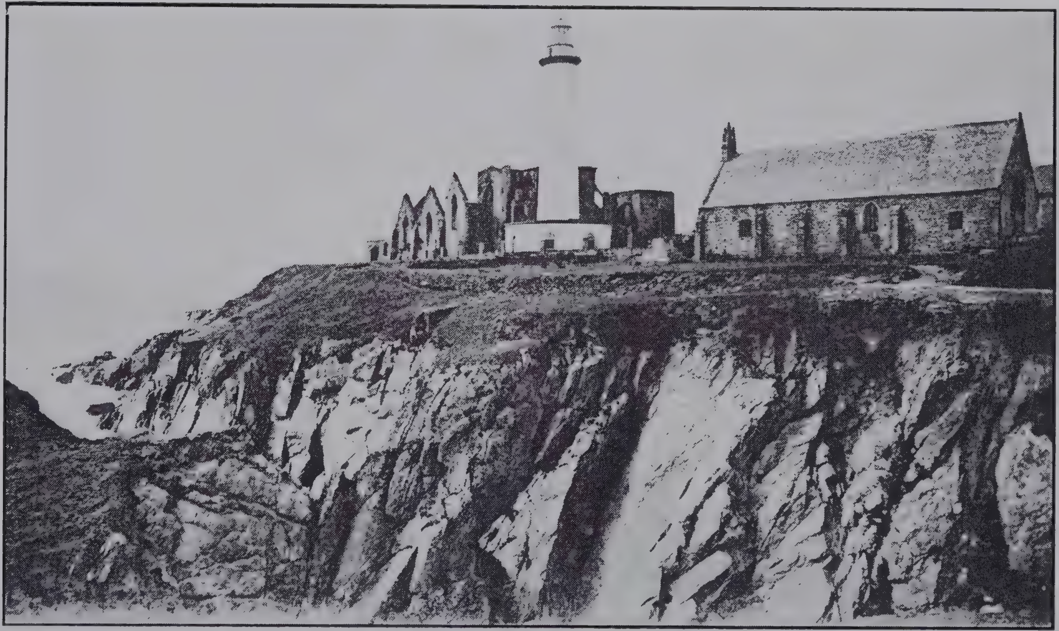
We had left our tented city near Brest at 10:00 o'clock A. M. and arrived at La Conquet in time for a fine fish dinner and its accompaniment, a bottle of vin blanc. After taking in the sights we proceeded on foot, strolling south on the banks of the ocean. Our destination was Point Saint Mathieu, lying about four miles south of Le Conquet. In this vicinity the bank of the ocean is a craggy, barren spot, inhabited only in the


Le Petit Journa

Le Conquet. Terminal of Interurban, four miles north of Point Saint Mathieu, on the Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean.

gullies and valleys. Point St. Mathieu is an old landmark of the early centuries. It has one of the most prominent light houses in the world, known to all sea captains and sailors. This light house has been swept away many times, so fierce are the waves of the sea. The day we were there the ocean was foamy, but very quiet. We inspected the ruins of the ancient abbey, Cote Nord, and the ruins of the old stone cathedral built in the tenth century. We also visited the little church where many early saints worshipped. An anniversary service is maintained in this little church by notables from the large cities. The lawns and beautiful gardens are kept up in excellent condition by monks and the populace, mostly peasants.

On our way back to Le Conquet we had a lunch at an inn. The finest of wines were served us on account of our being Americans and they had not learned of the change in feeling toward us around Paris. As we trugged along the banks of the frothy Atlantic we came upon a large garden having a huge stone wall around it. A church also was near and the home of the monks. Soon we met an old man and in the course of the conversation asked why there was a scattering of broken glass cemented on the top of this high wall. The old man replied in French that all who could not contribute towards the upkeep of this monastery were compelled to labor one day in this large garden every week, and so strict an accounting is kept of things that if any one of the laborers should take and carry home so much as a



Point Saint Mathieu, the most western point of France. Light -house and ruins of an ancient abbey, more than three hundred years old.

cucumber his name would be announced from the pulpit on the following Sunday. The broken glass was to prevent thieves from going over the walls. We proceeded a little further and found a beautiful landing where we proposed to take a bath without our bathing suits. We found a flat surface on a prominent cliff and proceeded to disrobe. Lieut. Bissonnette and Capt. Casey took the lead and dashed into the surf of the waves of the great Atlantic. The water was warm and so clear the white pebbled ocean bottom could easily be seen. It brought back fond recollections of dashes at home in the old swimming hole. We thought that we were miles away from any other human beings, when suddenly we heard the barking of a dog. Lo and behold! there at a short distance was an American lieutenant in company with a Y. W. C. A. lady secretary, both dressed in bathing suits, coming towards us to have a dip in the foaming sea. We gave them orders to halt and they hid behind a rocky cliff until we had completed our immersion and had on our uniforms. Then they came forward to have their baths. Even Bruno, the mascot, showed signs of delight in wading in the serf.

Among the thousands of persons whom I met during my stay overseas only one person whom I had known in the United States saw me there. That was Lieutenant Charles McArdle, attached to the Forty-second Division, who on a special duty came to see me at my headquarters. Lieut. McArdle is now located at Monroeville, Indiana. Corp. Fred Freese, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was located only a few miles north of my headquarters when I was at ''Men-Il-La-Tour.'' He belonged to an orchestra from Sazarra, that came to serenade us on the night of March 14th, 1918. Mr. Freese happened to be detailed at other work and could not accompany the party. That was as near as we were together without either knowing as to each other's location. I had several relatives in the A. E. F. but we never were able to get together, so great was the demoralization of conditions.

CHAPTER XXXII

A Glimpse of the Battle of the Marne As Related to Me By Its Hero

The Marne River valley lies east of the city of Paris, stretching itself along some of the most beautiful and productive agriculture region of France. After the German army had been halted by the Belgians they slowly crept around to the northeast of France, coming toward Paris, their goal. A number of severe conflicts had taken place and from all appearances the German army came out victorious. They maneuvered along the Western Front for months. One day they would make an attack here, and during the night they would steal away to the right or to the left and make an attack there. This would mislead the French commanders as to the strength of the German army so much so that they were afraid to make a general attack along the entire German line. (Some of this information I obtained from Clemenceau himself). The French government did not know at first to whom the command should be given. The German army was steadily creeping towards Paris. French officers were fearful and hesitated to take the command. Nearly all the isolated hills near Paris are crowned by fortresses and redoubts, formally regarded as impregable but now known not to be of sufficient strength to withstand bombardment by the heavy siege guns of modern warfare. The far northeastern uplands of the northern sector from which the Germans were driven is an irregular, plateau-like segment extending beyond the east-west valley of the Aisne River. Not far north of the Marne valley the back slope of the upland changed from a western to a southern slant; here it is drained by the Ourcq River, which joins the Marne above Meaux. When the German army made its great advance from the north of France in August, 1914, the farthest egress was over the highlands of Valois and Brie, where the front finally stretched from Meaux on the Marne southeastward along the southern side of the Orand Morin valley, across the open lowland of the Champagne on the line from Fere Champeneise to the town of Vitry-le-Francois. It was when this condition was reached that the French became anxious to know who was capable to lead the French army against the German line steadily advancing towards Paris. All eyes were turned toward Marshal Joffre, who finally took charge of the army at Paris. He took his army forward and made his

MARSHAL JOSEPH JOFFRE

famous stand by trying to press the Germans back. But in the forced German retirement which followed the same highland valleys that had impeded the southern movement of the Germans delayed the advance of Marshal Joffre's forces; the attempt made by the French forces, advancing from Paris, to push eastward north of the Marne and fall upon the German flank was stopped in the valley of the Ourcq. It was just too interesting to hear him tell how he invaded the untenable position on the Champagne, and a concentrated attack by the French army beyond the impassable marsh of St. Gowd, which served as a natural barrier for a moderate distance forward from the highland scrap, compelled the German army on the plain to withdraw from its hazardous position. The northern side of the Marne valley would have been a very favorable line for the Germans to hold had there been time to assemble the soldiers upon it, but Marshal Joffre was so close in pursuit and so ardent that this proved impossible; and moreover the right flank was there exposed to attack on the uplands of Valois. The German retreat was, therefore, not arrested until the valley of the Aisne, in the highland on the north, and the hills on the Champagne east of Reims were reached. The Germans chose well, if one may judge by the long subsequent period during which their army was held there. There is where Marshal Joffre found out the weakness of the German army, but yet too strong for his to combat. Getting permission of the French government, he, in company with Belfort, came to get aid from the United States. Marshal

Joffre would often say: ''Germany declared war. Germany attacked, menaced and invaded our territory, while we accepted with our magnificent coolness the brutal challenge they unjustly issued.''

At Marshal Joffre's burial, which occurred January 7th, 1931, War Minister Louis Barthou, the orator of the day, likened Marshal Joffre unto George Washington. Barthou declared that when everything seemed lost, the war, the earth, the army, the country and liberty, Marshal Joffre would not accept defeat. He wished victory, through justice, and planned for victory. He said, ''We must sooner consult our means than our desires, and not attempt to improve our position by attempts, which, if only half successful, would make affairs worse.'' This was Marshal Joffre's principle. Minister Barthou praised Marshal Joffre and the French soldiers when he spoke of the Battle of the Marne River and bitterly denounced the German invasion of Belgium and France. The word revenge, Barthou said, was not to be considered because the Marshal saw in that only a bloody game of reprisals. He wished to obtain everything by justice, but Germany, whom no one menaced, preferred force.

At Marshal Joffre's funeral maimed veterans placed a sack of earth from the source of the Marne at Balesnes on the top of his coffin, to be buried with it. Over 1,000,000 persons witnessed the two-mile procession. The body was taken to Notre Dame, the Paris Cathedral, and received by Monsignor Bishop Crepin, in the presence of the French government. Then it was placed in the same small lateral chapel where that of Marshal Foch rested. In the afternoon the American embassy entered by a private side door of the church and presented two great wreaths, one red and one pink, inscribed "American Army," "American Navy." His body lay there in state over night unguarded, because the remains of Marshal Joffre belonged to the church although he had been of the order of Masons. The Marshal's face was almost unrecognizable, hallowed and worn by his long suffering. Thousands wept as they looked and passed by. His crossed hands held a crucifix. One brilliant military medal, awarded for his great gallantry, was the only decoration on his black tunic, the same that he wore outside Paris during his struggle on the Marne in 1914. The lower part of his body, as he lay in the casket, was covered by a black tunic, which shielded the fact that the left leg of his body had been amputated at the knee during his last illness in a futile effort to save his life. Forty military decorations, emblems and medals of valor, rested near, fastened on nineteen black silk cushions, the awards of many nations. The Marshal's baton rested on the twentieth cushion. The chapel walls were hung in black, bearing the battle-torn flag the regiment used at the Battle on the Marne.

Marshal Joffre came from a common, ordinary family of peasants, whose father was a cooper or wine barrel maker. Young Joseph was a sturdy youth, calm in all ways. He was born January 4th, 1852, at Riversaltes, on the side of the Pyrenees-Orientals Mountains. He learned the trade of stone mason and became proficient in building stone fortifications which at that time were in great demand, but now are relics of the past. He also studied military tactics and was sent by the French government to study at the Military Ecole Polytechnique, a school that compares to West Point. Later he was sent to Algeria, where he superintended the construction of a number of huge forts. When the Franco-German war broke out (1871) he received a temporary appointment as a sub-lieutenant in the French artillery corps engaged in the defense of Paris. After the war he resumed his studies at the Polytechnique Ecole, and matriculated as a lieutenant in engineers. Four years later he became a captain and for three years following was engaged in construction works of the defense around Paris. He was made a chevalier of the French Legion in 1885 after leading an expedition to Formosa. He then made a long tour of inspection through the various French possessions. His gallant power of control of men was shown when, on September 10th, 1914, four days after the embattled French army, aided by the British with General Wilson, he started to fight back the German army. He advocated trench fighting.

He made a second tour of the United States together with his wife and step-daughter. His twinkling eyes, his walrus-like mustache and his sprightly demeanor captivated all who saw him. His tour was shortened by a re-call to duty by the French government. Besides his immediate family at his death he left an aged sister.

CHAPTER XXXIII

American Charity Workers Busy in Devastated Regions

The most formidable question of the time was how to go to work to re-construct the devastated battle field. As I told you, the battle field seemed to me as a vast ball field, where all "world series" were to be played. Especially that land known as "No-man's Land" and "Waterloo," where on June 18th, 1815, Napoleon met defeat at the hands of Wellington—a hundred years ago. But battle fields are made when wanted and property is no question to the combatants. The question of re-construction was brought before the Peace Conference. Hundreds of towns and villages had been totally or partially destroyed and thousands of acres of land in that vast area in northern France laid waste, during the four years of the war. The household effects of many of the natives in most cases had been stolen. While this problem was being discussed by Allied statesmen, preparatory to reaching a definite program, a group of courageous and unselfish American women, about fifty in number, plunged into the question. A fund of $2,000,000 was raised in the United States to re-habitate the battle field of northern France. The American organization was known as the *"Comite American pour les Regions Devastees de la France"*, (American Committee for the Devastated Regions of France). Mrs. Anna M. Dike, of Baltimore, Maryland, was the president, and Miss Anna Morgan, of New York City, the vice-president. The headquarters were at Paris, with a branch at Chateau-Thierry. Branches were located in the heart of the stricken districts—one at Soissons, one at Vic-sur-Aisne and a third at Laon. There were maintained regular mobile stores, going from village to village, driven by American girls, all of whom spoke French fluently, and chatted gaily with the peasants, while they supplied their wants. Many of the natives received monthly pensions from the government, but those without money were given their needs free. The trucks, driven by these young girls, were provided with groceries, shoes, clothes and other necessities as are needed under such conditions for the arrival of the returning peasants, who had been driven away four years previous by German bombs and shells. An old woman told me that they had not been warned of the Germans' approach before they were compelled to flee. She told me that she had three sons in the French army, but had not received a word from them since they had left home four years before. She repeated to me that one morning a shell burst in their front yard. This they then knew to be a German shell. They had three smaller children at home, the youngest being ten years of age. They hastily decided that they would gather what they could carry and haul on a small two-wheeled push cart, drive their cattle before them, take a few chickens in a box on the cart, leave the balance of their belongings at home and start on the highways, that were infested with robbers, for southern France, where they had relatives. First they prepared the three children and sent them on, telling them they would follow. They herded their cattle with those of neighbors from the same village and started south, bidding adieu to their locked old home, where they all had been born. They were overtaken by a gang of German soldiers who took their cattle and drove them across the German line, and they were never seen again. And their children, who accompanied other children from this village, were never seen nor heard from, but they believed they were captured and taken into Germany—and the father and mother were hoping and praying that some day they would return home as the birds migrate home to the north each summer. It was a pitiful sight to see them return to their (what had been four years before) old home, now completely demolished. Immediately after the signing of the armistice they started on their way home, expecting and praying to find it as they had left it, but woe, to their amazement—what they had called home was nothing but a pile of stones, mortar, tiles and broken timber. What a desolation to behold, and the thought of their three small children and that of their three sons! The mother cried bitterly as this view appeared before her and the thought of their loss came to her mind. O mothers, who read this, think of what an awful pestilence war is. What an awful thought it must be to think of raising a family, to be given away to war lords to be used as cannon fodder.

Most of the peasants were living in patched-up houses which had been riddled by German bullets or shattered by shell fire. Despite the most severe hardships, the peasants smiled and told you how happy they were to be back in their old towns or farms, even though everything had been destroyed. Soisson was a thriving city of more than 20,000 people before the war. There were only a handful there when I visited the place. Upon their return after the war they found every building in the city virtually destroyed or badly damaged. The natives began to come back shortly after the armistice. You could see them mope along the military roads leading them to their homes, some leading a cow and other animals that they had saved and taken along with them. They were mostly all old people or children, for the able-bodied men and women were still in the service.

These peasants often surprised you with their cheerfulness. Yet many had no food, and it took many months before the government, with the help of this American organization, could function to meet their wants properly. I saw where two related families of twelve slept in a small dugout along the side of a hill, while the men were at work restoring their tumble down stone house. Boards placed in front of the entrance served to keep out the wind, and a small stove furnished the heat. It was here that I found a real apostle of optimism—an old woman past 70 years, who was living alone in another part of the cave. She had a donkey and a dozen hens and a rooster, housed close by, in an improvished stable. These were her constant companions and had accompanied her on two such occasions when in 1871 the German army drove her away from her home in her old town. When the war ended she put the hens and rooster in a cart. She did not tell me that it was the same hens and rooster, but it was the same donkey—hitched it to the cart and drove back to her old village, she walking all the way.

Many charitable societies were operating in this desolate region. A medical work committee from the United States operated here. Dr. Maude M. Kelly, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, the chairman, was one of these workers, who made scores of professional visits each week in the various villages. The destitute old French farmers were helped greatly in the purchase of farm implements and seed for the raising of the spring crop. Many hogs were donated after purchasing them with American money. The first immediate need of the peasants were: food, furniture, clothing, after their homes were partly restored, and these were furnished to a large extent by the generosity of our American women, and American efficiency. They were graciously thanked by the humble peasants for their untiring labor.

How things have changed. After fifteen years of time we find that the good then done is not recognized, especially. The controlling power of France is no longer vested in such men as Clemenceau—"the old tiger of France"—no more "Papa Joffre"—no more "General Foch"—no more "Poincare"—all gone to a happy reward. The newer set are all graduates of the newer schools—"Sports." Since the Treaty of Versailles was signed France has dominated Europe; giving in a little, it is true, on diplomatic questions, such as Russia, Japan, Spain, but only granting concessions to gain larger ones and doing as she cared in such cases where that seemed the best policy. She is now as tricky as a pet coon. The domination of Europe was obtained by France by becoming angel to the new regime of the re-born states of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, and the enlarged kingdom of Rumania. The defeated powers were not permitted to arm themselves or to make alliances with other countries, which order has been violated. Russia is disorganized by local revolutions, and stands no chance to challenge France's supremacy. England "flim-flammed" with her and went back on traditional policy of playing one side against the other for her own good. Italy is left out with Mussolini. Germany is again getting upon her feet, with now and then a skirmish, and a good chance of abdicating her republic form of government. Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria are now lining up against French superiority and have restored the balance of power with England sitting as a silent partner to the game that is soon to be played. I do hope that the United States will keep out of the game. Russia is still the unknown factor. The combined population of both factions are about equal. Those countries siding in with Italy have a population of about 130,000,000, while that of France is about 128,000,000. To offset the difference in favor of France is that France and her allies are more heavily armed and possess more wealth. France will pay her war debts.

CHAPTER XXXIV

Conditions of the Country, People, and Schools

The countries of Europe, as I have said, in many things are three hundred years behind the times. One-half of the soil is a waste. No efforts are made to reclaim their best lands, the swamps and lowlands are the best in the lot. There is no such thing as farm drainage. As already stated, some of their rivers—(we would call them creeks) are canalized, which makes a fair drainage for the country through which they run. Special and conservative farming is carried on in many places outside of the war area. No great efforts to gather wealth through labor is noticed. The great buildings now seen were built years ago when the people were mere slaves under the domination of the clergy. The great churches, many of them now neglected and decaying, are the works of centuries ago. In all my travel I saw only one church (a German Lutheran at Strasbourg) that was being repaired. The repairs, in many cases, were paid with American money.

The great cathedrals at Reims and Amiens, which were badly damaged by the German bombs, were repaired and paid with American money. The great hole made in the roof of ''Eglise Saint Gervais'' in Paris, damaged by ''Big Bertha'' the seventy-five kilometer German gun, was repaired under the directions of Americans.

Their building constructions are all made to last. The buildings are principally of stone and cement reinforced. There are very few frame structures, consequently their fire losses are few. A conflagration that swept an entire business block in Brest, France, was the only large fire that I witnessed. Many American barracks were destroyed by fire during the war. Fire insurance there is compulsory, that is, your insurance is included in your taxes, so that no one loses on account of no insurance when he burns out. There is no such a person as a fire insurance agent. That is all taken care of by the officers of the government.

Professional men after the war were few, those still active were all old men. The younger generation of professional men had gone to the war and many had been killed or wounded.

They have a compulsory educational law but during the four years of the war little was done to educate the young. I spent a day visiting a school that they were trying to open, after a four-year vacation. The old building had been cleaned but not repainted. Few of the pupils had any books, as the old books were all gone. The teacher was one of the first to be called at the opening of the war. After two years' service he was shot through the right cheek by a slug from a German gun. An operation had been performed on his cheek that had left him disfigured for life. The children were unruly, cunning and tricky. The teacher could not maintain order and the discipline was poor, but consider our schools after a four-year vacation and you can judge as to results. The higher schools of learning in France were classed as some of the best, but the war told on them, too. The great University at Nancy is known the world over. The Art School at Besancon, the home of Victor Hugo, is renowned. The Paris University still sent out its graduates and also the Pasteur School at Paris.

Their banking system is anti-date but accurate. They make few mistakes in their accounting. Like all great institutions there is no rush, that is you stand and take your turn; no pushing is allowed. Banks are all divided into departments, and each has its own work to do. They are controlled by the government.

Mining of coal and iron ore is an important industry for France, especially in the northeast near Saar-Brucken, where they get a substance used in the manufacturing of fertilizer, and large investments are needed. Hops are raised for the manufacture of beer. Some commercial mustard is raised by the farmers.

Their main thoroughfares are the best in the world. Their military highways are held as the best assets of the country. However, aviation is now attracting great attention, and may change the attitude of the government as to military roads.

All the cemeteries are held in common, that is there is no distinction made as to creed, race or color. The control is vested in the mayor of the town or city. If a Catholic is buried each grave is blessed before or during the burial by the parish priest. Thus one can be buried ''between two thieves'' as Christ hung between two thieves during the crucifixion. Many of our American soldier boys who died after the armistice now lie buried in such cemeteries.

Wash day among the peasants, usually on Monday, is a great day, what we would call here visiting day. Every family takes the washing to the river, creek, stream or a wash house erected by the city or town. Here you see hundreds of women and girls and sometimes boys hammering away on the clothes they are washing. This is done with a paddle about a foot and a half long, and away they hammer their clothing and fabric while kneeling along the edge of the water. No soap is used, and no boiling of clothes is done, and their result is so perfect that it surprises you to see the pearl-white clothes, thoroughly cleaned. In the larger cities they have launderies. It is amusing to see these busy-bodied women at work and at the same time spreading the gossip of the town, and having a general good time.

They are all great entertainers, the French people like to entertain a guest. They will prepare great feasts for you, and like to see you sip their good ''vin blanc'' or their ''vin rouge'' from their ''vignoble,'' aged in bottles in their wine cellars, possibly a half a mile under ground in the mountain or hill-side. They enjoy seeing your eyes twinkle. However they themselves sip only a little, besides they are used to it for they drink it twice a day. Coffee is served, sometimes chocolate, for breakfast. The French soldiers were provided with a daily ration of wine, the German soldiers were served with beer, and our American buddies had the ''good old pure, fresh Adam's ale,'' fresh from the river. That is the reason that our Americans soon gained the friendship of the French boys, and if occasion presented itself, soon gained the friendship of the German buddies. It was simply a game, but sometimes it was very dangerous. Much of the casualties occurred during practice; the danger was in being in the way of a bomb, shrapnell, shell or missile. Those who could dodge them were lucky. Few were killed outright from a bullet from long distance rifles.

CHAPTER XXXV

French Forts

Almost every city in France and many in other countries have fortifications built around the principal part of the town or city. These fortifications in the main are huge piles of earth to a height of thirty feet, surrounded on the outside with a deep moat filled with water, and connected with draw-bridges at the huge gates of steel set in solid masonry. In peace times these gates are left open and the bridges are down and no sentinel stands guard. The country is dotted with forts, many of them planned and constructed under the supervision of Marshal Joffre. All these protections are things of the past, they are great curiosities, massive bulwark of no value except in times of peace, when armies may camp there. One of the companies of the Seventh Division occupied the huge fort near Pagny-la Blanche while on their way to Brest. This fort has a large automatic ''cheese box,'' the same kind used in the ''Old Ironsides.'' Huge cannon were there to be used, but they were silent. This monstrous fortification was capable of housing 22,000 soldiers. There are seven such forts near Metz that were at one time protecting that city. These are on high hills and were as helpless as a small child and could be of little importance in the present form of warfare. There are monstrous cells with huge bars, where prisoners of war were placed. Long rooms or corridors are the passages through which one passes from one part of the large fort to another of the dingy looking catacomb. They are not electrically lighted, so any one going through these passages must provide himself with a light.

All this work cost the government millions of money which had to be obtained from the people. All of this was for the maintenance and protection of the property of the people but were often considered as threats, which eventually produced wars.

CHAPTER XXXVI

Strange Habits and Customs

In many places in Europe the habits and modes of living of the people are still ancient. Almost all the local transportation is made on a two-wheeled cart. Huge hogshead or casks of wine are hauled in this way, pulled by three pure bred horses of great value. The horses are hitched ahead of each other. There are two reasons for thus placing this hitch; one is to help in climbing hills, of which there are many on their highways; the other is to avoid paying the higher taxes. The person who drives a two-horse team side by side pays more tax than the one that drives a two-horse team head-on, as the path the horses make on the highways is less damaged than when driven side by side. I saw loads of loose hay loaded on a two-wheeled cart fully as large and heavy as an ordinary farmer pulls here on his four-wheeled wagon. These loads were pulled with a team head-on.

The householder's tax in France is practically nil, and includes his fire insurance premium so that if he has a fire loss he can rehabitate.

The rate of taxing a building is also queer to us. The more windows you have in your house, factory or establishment the heavier tax you pay; thus, there you pay for God's pure light. In America we have not come to that yet. We pay for electric lights and so do they, as almost all homes are provided with electric lights, the power being generated through a dam in a small stream nearby. Another queer mode of sawing lumber is still in vogue. Many times two good men, a good cross-cut saw, a few log chains and a good broad ax are all that are required to establish a sawmill in Europe. First the log is hewn square, the surfaces are as smooth as if it had been planed. The square block is placed on a truss and the two men begin to saw up and down until one-half the length of the block is sawed through. After all of one end of this block is sawed it is unchained and reversed and the same process is continued with the other end of the block, which completes the lumber sawing. However, there are many steam and electric sawmills in places near forests where lumber is manufactured in large quantities. Lumber is used sparingly in the construction of buildings and this is the reason for their light fire losses. They build to last.

Another custom of frugality I noticed is the lack of advertising in their business. You will notice large establishments, however not many stories high, without a sign painted upon them, not even announcing the name of the industry. I took a picture of a large building in Metz, and upon inquiry found it to be one of the largest breweries in Germany. Plain packages are used; compare this with our way of selling. The cost of the package in our country is often greater than the value of the article purchased. In France you take your own receptacle when you buy a pound of sugar, coffee, molasses, vinegar, beer, etc., when you desire to purchase such articles or you will have to pay extra for them. Rubber bands are used in place of wrapping twine. The old one-horse ''shay'' is still in vogue in many places. Some are artistically built and it is a pleasure to see these wealthy people travel the highways in such make-up. Many times I ordered my chauffeur to stop on the side of the highway to let some ''grandee'' with his frisky horse pass by.

Great numbers of their people, both men and women, carry scars and wounds, the result of wars. Some have their entire cheek torn away, exposing their teeth; thousands have ampuated limbs. Their hospitals are full of such miserable people. Many complaints were made to me as to the treatment they received from their government. They said the government preferred to spend millions on display for a holiday celebration rather than spend a penny for their comfort. They would say, ''Your boys are being well kept.''

It is true that they are very liberal in spending money to show off. Their Fourth of July is celebrated on the 14th of July—the expenses of the electrical display alone for the 1919 holiday cost Paris thousands of dollars. Monte Carlo had one of the best and grandest celebrations ever known in that city of marble and gold.

Astronomers tell me and so do scientists, that the atmospheric conditions in France are such that thunder and lightning are seldom seen and heard there, but when they do have such disturbance it is usually very severe. Hence property is seldom destroyed or people or live stock seldom killed by lightning. The rain and snow fall is about the same as in the United States, but our buddies can say and say it in justice, that the rainfall is ''super-abundance,'' from the way the mud formed in the trenches, dugouts and shell-holes.

Taxation in France, as I learned it, is not excessive as it is in the United States. They see to it that much of the cost of government is paid by foreign countries and mostly tourists. There is not a church but what has old relics to show the visitors and a charge is made for such display and a history in pamphlet form is provided in any language you may desire. The ''knee bone of St. Ann'' and the ''heart of King William'' or ''King Charles VII.'' preserved in a beautiful case and thousands of such silly expositions are given to the gullible public at so much per. A certain amount of this goes to the government. Another thing I found is that they are more economical in the expense of government. They have few bureaucrats, but what they have work to perfection. The government issues very few bonds, they pay as they go, not to mention what they borrowed from our people. This borrowed money was all offered to them as a bait by what was thought to be shrewd Americans, but they found their Waterloo. The ''international bankers'' did not care a ''damn,'' the American public bought the bonds and were the suckers. Many towns, cantons and even cities issue script paper money. They do not adopt the red tape method of plastering stamps to this scrip. They simply print script money in various sizes and in various denominations whenever they desire to make some improvements or to pay debts, when they are not able to get money from their treasurer. Thus they avoid paying interest, and the improvement is made or the debt paid. A certain amount of this script is called in as the taxes are collected and the script money is finally redeemed, but much of this script is lost, destroyed by fire, lost in the sea, buried to rot, and many thousands of this script was carried home as a souvenir by Americans. I have several such pieces in my collection, all of which goes to benefit the municipality that issued it. During the war they issued bread tickets. You could eat just so much bread and no more. You were not permitted to use any lights of any kind at night unless the outside blinds were closed.

A person's wealth, in the urban districts, is known by the size of the manure pile in front of his home. The larger pile means the larger herd of cattle owned by the owner of the home. In the spring time the air is very thick and inhaling the stuff is very offensive to one not accustomed to this condition. It does not take long to haul this gathering on the fertile fields. Even the ''puren'' from this manure is gathered in huge cement underground vats, pumped into tanks and sprinkled on the meadows. I was once billeted at a place where my next roommate was a beautiful Holstein family cow. The biddies roosted above my room. Yet my room was beautifully carpeted, papered, a bed so high that you had to get upon a chair to crawl in the large featherbed. The room was furnished with electric lights. They told me that the early spring odor would be gone when this "wealth" was removed and the place made thoroughly clean. The room was perfectly clean, but the outside surroundings were not.

In the face of the fact that these people have suffered many long wars, they seem not to worry, but take life easy. The majority of the people do not seem to care to accumulate wealth as we do in America. They care to show off, be well dressed, have good eats and drinks, and have lots of pleasure. Very few are religious, but they are generally honest. They like to have what belongs to them. They believe in the slogan, "Give unto Caesar the things that belong to Caesar." Since the war they also have adopted the American slogan, "Get all you can and can all you get."

CHAPTER XXXVII

Effects of the Great War Upon the Morals of the Members of the A. E. F.

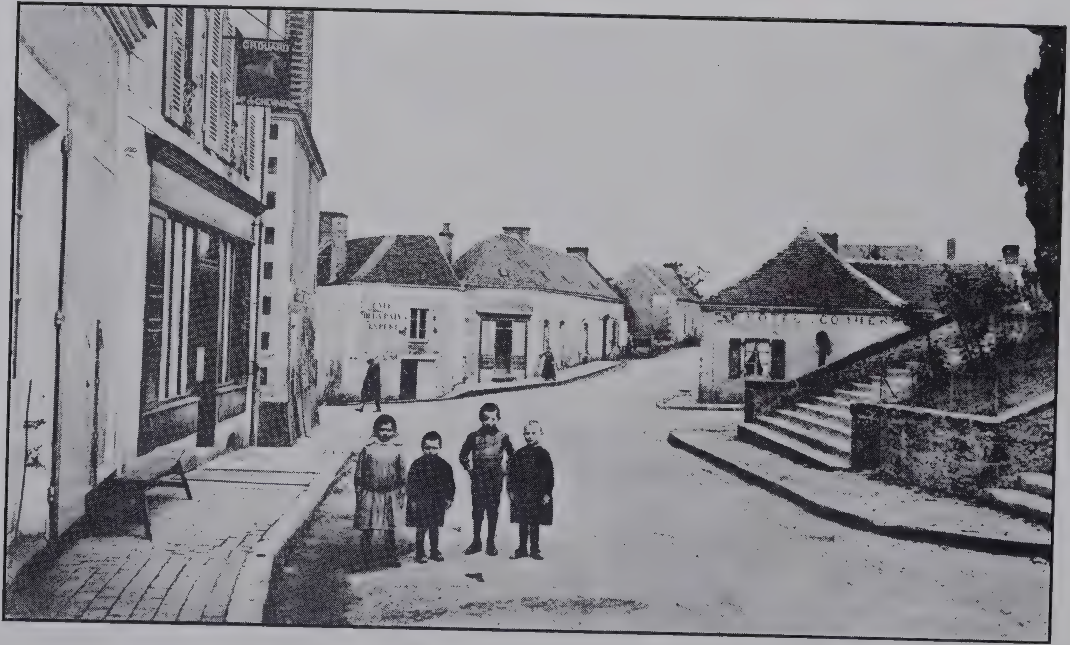
Briefly, let me write a few words about the effects the Great War had upon the morals and discipline of the members of the A. E. F. In the first place, as soon as it was made known that the United States would be plunged into war, it was made the duty of the officers of our universities and colleges to select and encourage their students to volunteer their services to the United States army, and thus have the best chance to secure an office in the army, whether competent or not, and often it proved that they were not competent to hold their office.

The ordinary soldier, known as a private, was held under strict discipline. An officer was not. He had more leeway. The private soldier was compelled to salute his superior officer under heavy penalty. Even if he had his coat unbuttoned he would be reminded of it and if not attended to, he was subjected to a penalty of a few days incarceration in the guard-house. It was not so with an officer, especially after dark. At 9:00 p. m. the bugle and drum and sometimes the flute would be used to announce that all the buddies were to ''turn in.'' They knew what the reveille meant to them. Not so with an officer. That is when the debauchery occurred. After the armistice was signed weekly dances were held, many French girls were invited to attend, and the many Y. W. C. A. girls of the Welfare Workers and Red Cross nurses made up the company of revelers at these functions. But you would never see a Salvation Army girl there. Many parties were expensive and very elaborate. The restaurant keeper at a place where I was billeted had two grown-up girls and they were invited to attend one of these dances. Out of courtesy and respect to the

Rev. Father C. Cabaret, a French Chaplain of Saint Sabine, France, with whom the author was billeted.

American boys, owing to the trade they gave them, the girls accepted the invitation to attend but were chaperoned by their mother, who related to me some of the doings there. They never went to another dance.

I will tell you of another event that occurred "over there." When we made our move from Colombey-la Belle we detrained at Connly. All the officers were billeted at the houses of some French citizens. This was done by the mayor and clerk of the city. Owing to me being connected with the Knights of Columbus, although not a member of that organization, I was billeted with the "cure" of the city. When I first presented myself to him at his beautiful home as his "would be guest" he flatly refused me permission even to enter the yard, which was enclosed by a high stone wall, and the entrance was through a large iron gate. I reported this at the mayor's office, whereupon the mayor stated that he would compel him to furnish me with lodging—(we ate our meals at the army kitchen), but I refused to be forced to stay at that place. The mayor exchanged my lodging with that of one of our officers and said he would go himself and give him the "law." About 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, May 20th, 1919, the "bon" of this "cure" came to where I had established my new headquarters and made a special request that I go to the "cure's" home at his invitation. I was never better treated than at Rev. Father Cabret's home during all my stay in Europe. Cure Cabaret, who was

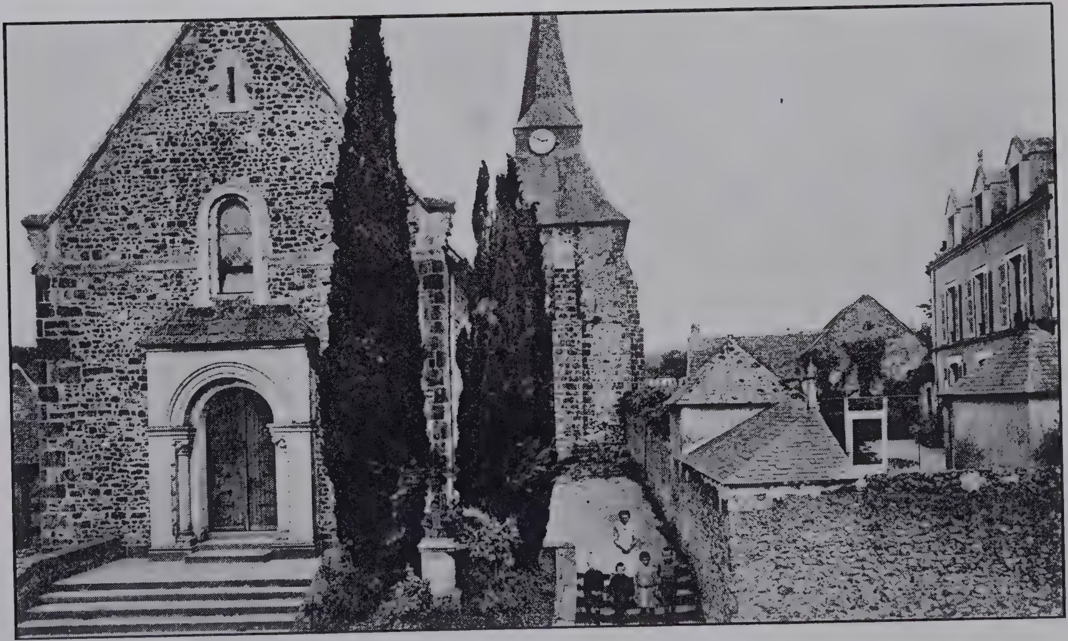


Saint Sabine, Brittany, France. Headquarters opposite church here.

a chaplain in the French army, then explained the reason he had for refusing me entrance when I first went there. He said: ''Two weeks ago an American army was billeted here and I had an army officer to stay with me. He never came home until a late or rather an early hour and sometmes not too sober. One night he came home 'drunk as a lord.' We had to help him upstairs to his room. Not long after he was in bed, he got sick and mussed himself and bed so that we had to lead him downstairs to clean him up. We then vowed that that would be the last American officer that should room with us.''

We look with awe at the stupendous cost of money, and the loss of millions of human lives that this war cost the world. But this is nothing compared to the ill effects that it caused after the war. Millions of men, women, some mere boys and girls, were permitted to take some part in this struggle.

The greatest mistake a government makes is to permit women (many were young girls) to take part in warfare. The American army had thousands of girls across the pond, working as welfare harbingers, with little good results. Many of them were sent across to serve the officers. The result was that the hospitals were full of men and women suffering from various virulent diseases. I had occasion to visit a number of places where these poor sufferers lay, taking treatments. The one at Pontanezen was the worst one I saw. Many of the patients were not permitted to return home, but died there and were laid to rest peacefully on foreign soil.



Church at Saint Sabine. Was billeted here with the parish priest, a chaplain in the French army.

The morals of some of the American soldiers was very low, especially among the officers. Many times when looking for an officer I would find him in a brothel or being entertained by a certain "demoiselle" of the town. Few husbands were at home, all able-bodied men were at the front, which gave the "stray" his way.

Many American hospitals there were filled with men and women suffering from gonorrhea and like diseases. The government made a great "wilful" mistake to even permit any women to enter the service, whether as nurses or otherwise. The good results accomplished in the work they did was over balanced by the harm done.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

What Did the War Do?

In conclusion, let me say as I said in the beginning of my story, that the cause of this Great War that lasted six years was *world domination*. It cost billions of money, millions of lives and an abundance of pain and grief. Wars are either terminated by complete destruction or extermination, or by arbitration, as this war was supposed to have been settled. The reparations are tributes, and are not settled to this date. What a sad thing is war!

When I was at Strasbourg I met three great Germans who could speak French. One of them said: "At the termination of the 1871 conflict France agreed by arbitration to pay a specified sum of money to Germany within ten years. The moneyed men and bankers of France got together within two years and paid off this large sum of money. Now I believe that Germany will go it one better and pay the reparations within one year from now.'' This man was surely off his pegs, for fifteen years have elapsed and the debt is still there. And worse than that is the great private loans made to the Germans and to the German government that are left unpaid, and they may yet repudiate their debts.

The first international committee of experts had to work in a diving bell. Germany then, in 1924, was totally submerged. By inflating her money until it was worthless she had committed an act of national insolvency, internal and external. Nothing like it had ever happened before. Nevertheless, the experts found the ship itself to be quite sound, and so reported. All that was necessary was to have new blood injected and float the ship again on a tide of confidence. Once afloat it could bear a reparations debt burden of $625,000,000 a year.

That was what was known as the Dawes Plan; and on the undertaking to make it work the German government borrowed $200,000,000 in gold from Great Britain, France and the United States to begin a policy of fulfillment.

Then, immediately, Germany at large launched herself upon a career of borrowing so amazingly and recklessly to correspond to nothing in the history of international finance, except by contrast, her preceding career in bankruptcy by inflation. This was the beginning of borrowing of her private debt. There was a period of five years of prosperity in Germany with other peoples' money. Then unless the creditors would agree to fix a total, so that Germany might at least see the end of reparations, there was nothing for her to do but to embrace despair and sink again.

After that a second committee of international experts made an analysis of Germany's resources and said she could afford to pay only $400,000,000 a year. That was what was known as the Young Plan; then the German government said it had to have another loan, for how could they pay that amount without money?

Before the Young Plan had even begun to work the former head of the German Reichsbank and other Germans were going up and down in the halls of the world proclaiming the authentic propaganda that reparations were the means of bringing Germany to ruin; that unless she was relieved of that burden she would surely sink; that a second loan, such as preceded the Dawes Plan, was the only means of escape, then this second loan, with all the terrors of repaying it, might come to seem the lesser German sacrifice. It is weird to remember that with this propaganda running higher and higher, still Germany could borrow on a scale hitherto unheard of.

So Great Britain, France and the United States launched themselves into making Germany a second loan of $300,000,000 to fulfill the policy. That was the amount she would have had otherwise to pay anyway on account of the reparations. At the same time the international finance made a direct loan of $100,000,000 to the German Reichsbank to meet the emergency. The money was provided by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Bank of England and the Bank of France, who in turn issued bonds against their countries and sold the bonds to their citizens, ''raking'' in all the commissions and now the people be ''damned.''

On this day's work international finance heaved a great sigh. Nothing less than the bankruptcy of Germany has been averted. For some time there was a strong rise in German bonds, in securities of all kinds, even in commodities, the whole world over. Within ten days Doctor Luther, head of the German Reichbank, was going about Europe in an airplane to Basle, to Paris, to London, saying Germany must have immediately the loan of $500,000,000 more. The whole benefit of the Hoover debt-holiday plan had been swallowed up in the flight from the German mark, and Germany's financial plight was much worse than before. International finance was horrified.

Where was the end of this? The Germans rushing their own money out of Germany, and Germany at the same time imploring her creditors to put more in the hopper, to save her and to save themselves. What did the

Germans do with all that money? Part of it, a very small part, was used to pay the reparations that were past due. The balance went to the big ones. A part went to build the great six-story new department store at Cologne, to build the great steel and glass church at the same place, which afterward was moved to Essen; the New Planetarium at Dusseldorf was built with this borrowed money, the world's most modern airport at Munich, the new exposition building at Cologne, with its huge tower, the Rundling-Hanau Settlement at Hanau, the great monument raised to the memory of Albert Schlageter, workman, who incited civilian mob against the French soldiers in the Ruhr Valley. Thus was squandered the money borrowed. The great Church of the Cross at Frankfort-on-the-Main was built with tainted money. The great settlement at Rundling, at Leipszig, Laessung. The great settlement at Lankwitz, a district of Berlin, the Gehag Settlement at ''Onkel Tom's Cabin'' at or near Berlin, the Britz Settlement at Britz district also near Berlin, the great settlement known as ''Germaniastreet,'' at the Tempelhof district near Berlin, the New Stadium of Cologne were built with this ''loan money.'' Why were they building so many new settlements? They all are of the latest modern make-up, with sewerage, electric power and every convenience known. They are all built outside of the cities themselves. All the aristocrats of Germany have congregated here and at the expense of foreign people, who during the war were enemies of theirs. So who is profiting from the effects of the war? Not a single German building was destroyed or even molested during the entire period of the war. America became silent and ceased to send more money to Germany. The French press was caustic. They said: ''These Americans always saying they wouldn't and didn't, now again blundering their hands into the affairs of Europe, not understanding them at all. Interfering without knowing what it was that they interfered with. Using their power of credit to dictate terms between France and Germany. Why shouldn't they lend their credit as credit merely, in a financial way, and otherwise mind their own business? And besides they were in bad manners, as usual, to propose that France should forego German reparations for a year without having first consulted France about it. Russia is even now bidding on such accommodations. (Beer day in the U. S. A., April 7th, 1933).''

Comment in Germany was brutal and a little exulting. The Americans were obliged to save Germany from bankruptcy in order to protect the $2,500,000,000 they already had loaned to her. It was only to save themselves that they were saving her. However, we still thought very well of it ourselves. And in any case, looking at it unromantically, the saving of Europe would have been a bargain even if it did cost us $300,000,000, if really we had saved it. But in a little while it appeared very clearly that we had not saved Europe. Within two weeks the whole of that $300,000,000 credit had been swallowed up and Europe was saying to us: ''Now see what has happened. The Hoover plan was all right; the intention was good. Only it was inadequate in the first place and the dilatory and public discussion of it by the nations concerned has advertised Germany's condition to the whole world. Now all of Germany's private creditors are in a panic. American banks are calling their deposits out of German banks. The Germans themselves are in a flight from the mark. What are you going to do about it? If, after this, you let Germany go down, it had been better to have done nothing at all. And if you let Germany go down, all of Europe may crash.''

Hitler may save or crush Germany. American credit has twice ''saved'' Germany, once for herself and once for the sake of Europe, and now it had helped to save the Bank of England all in less than three months. And the cost was roughly estimated at $1,250,000,000. Yet who can say that it was not worth it? After all that, another crisis. Germany is not saved; she has only been floating on a raft of American credit. Europe, as a whole, is not saved, because Germany was not. And for that reason the Bank of England discovered immediately that the loan she had got from the American Federal Reserve Bank of New York was not enough. Then the American money lenders said: ''You are spending too much money on schemes of social benefits, particularly in new settlements.'' The American lending to Europe out of the Federal Treasury ended with the post-armistice loan. Then private lending began, through the international bankers, mostly from the little people, orphans and widows, to an extent of about $40,000,000,000, in less than fifteen years. By so doing we have raised ourselves in European estimation as an ugly debtor mentality. We have gained the enmity of Europe. This, you may say, is inevitable in human nature; creditors must expect it and allow for it. But what makes it much worse in Europe and gives it a sinister political importance is the prejudiced manner in which it is exploited, not only by the newspapers and the politicians but by the ministers of finance who cannot balance their budgets and by governments when it is necessary to increase taxes. Germany tells her people their trouble is heavy reparations. She cannot say that it is their war debts to the United States treasury, because she has none. American loans to Germany have enabled her to pay some of her reparations. Out of reparations from Germany the other nations have made their annual war debt payments or a part of them. Anything we have yet received from Europe is part of our own money, the worse for wear, and very little of that. But if you say this to a European, even to one who knows, he is offended. Very few of them do know, as a matter of fact; it is easier to believe what they hear from those who exploit the debtor mentality. The whole trouble is that the Americans were too free lenders of money and the European governments were too free borrowers, and a new generation has sprung up that believes the best and quickest way to settle a debt is to repudiate it. We are undoubtedly in for heavy losses in Europe. We have, in fact, already had them. Private investors, large and small, banks, large and small, are loaded up with depreciated foreign securities. Many of our lawmakers are champing at the bit in their anxiety to get away and reach the public treasury first. The press is full of their propaganda for spending schemes. The air is full of the cries of the Radical Reds and the Conservative Whites. The Commonsense Blues, the great majority of inarticulate moderate men who retain their sanity, view with amazement a world apparently gone crazy. They ask themselves: Why is the prospective loss of a few billions of foreign debts, which the American public must pay out of taxation, a bull argument? And if we send good money to Europe after bad, will the bad trot back decidedly hand in hand with the good, or will both decide to remain in the old country? Today taxation is the poor white man's burden. It is rapidly becoming confiscation of the small home, the farm, the little business and the big, because it is usually the money of other people that is used in big business. Those who are bawling loudest for the taxation of wealth, which is a perfectly sound system wherever surplus wealth can be reached, are themselves the most oppressed by parasitic politicians and are the final victims of our spending programs for the national, state and civil luxuries. The cure is all in the hands of the True Blues if they will use it.

WORLD DOMINATION PLANNING CRUSHED

There are some persons to this day who are censuring Ex-President Wilson, deceased, for plunging the United

States into this war. Let me tell you sincerely that it was the intent of the German leaders to compel the Belgian army to agree to follow them to France, to have the French army agree to follow them and get the Italian army to agree to assist them to England, get the British army to follow them across the Atlantic ocean to Mexico, get the Mexican army to agree to follow them to Canada and get the British standing army to unite all forces upon the United States unanimously and without hesitation. When the army of a country sides in with a plan and plot, all is gone. The United States army would have been compelled to submit to the whimsical ideas of the German aristocrats to dominate the world, for they taught this to their people that if the Pope of Rome can dominate the Catholic world, why should it not be possible for the kaiser of Germany to dominate the whole world? If the United States had not interfered we would today be under German control. How would you like to be under the control of "Von Herr" Hitler?

CHAPTER XXXIX

Homeward Bound

After completing my work, I made application for my passage homeward. Friends put me wise that if I would ask for a return ticket by way of Marseilles I would get to go through the Strait of Gibraltar, stopping at Gibraltar two days, pass on to Lisbon, Portugal, stay there two days, go on to the Azore Islands, stop two days at St. Mitchel, on the island of the same name, then proceed to Providence, Rhode Island, thence to Brooklyn, New York. This trip was a great outing for me. Everything passed along smoothly. There were some fifty Y. W. C. A. girls on the passenger list, besides twenty army officers, ten Knights of Columbus secretaries and about two hundred regular passengers. Upon arriving at New York I made my report, and four days after my arrival there I boarded the Pennsylvania Keystone Flyer, arriving at Fort Wayne, Indiana, at noon the next day. The Red Cross offered me their service, but my relatives there had made all arrangements and I was soon doing duty by the side of a good mid-day dinner at the home of one of my cousins, Henry Hortsman, whose wife also is related to Marshal Joffre. Upon hearing of my return, a reporter for the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette sought me and had the following account in the next morning's issue of that paper, appearing on the front page:

ALLEN COUNTY MAN BACK FROM OVERSEAS

J. J. Peters of Monroeville, Tells of Experiences as K. C. Secretary

Served With Doughboys

J. J. Peters, of Monroeville, returned home Wednesday evening from Paris, where he served in the overseas war service as a secretary and interpreter during the past eight months.

He is delighted with his trip and says that it was both interesting and instructive, and found that the Americans made a favorable impression, not only upon the people of France but upon the people of the whole world. The manhood of America did not falter. They interpreted the real America to the world—the America of might, right and justice.

''They demonstrated,'' he said, ''that the flower of power is not brutality, but unselfishness; that the meek inherit the earth, because they have the mental and moral power; that genuine altruism is life to save, superb strength and reserve of body and brain to do things quickly, and that sympathy, gentleness, generosity, are the supreme manifestations of the survival of both the fittest and the best, whether in the powerful man or the responsible state.''

In speaking of the peace conference he said that all the delegates of the allied nations look upon President Wilson as a great man, and that he has won for himself all the honors and esteem that can be bestowed upon a man.

Mr. Peters believes, with many others, that had our president not been present at the peace conference in person, the delegates would not have come to an agreeable settlement for a much longer time than it took.

He believes that it would have taken two years or longer before they would have come to terms.

Mr. Peters visited many places in Europe, as his work gave him a wider range, even than that given to an American military officer.

He served in an official capacity at Verdun, Chateau Thierry, Metz and St. Mihiel. He was at Mount Sec, where about 300 American soldiers were killed on July 18th, 1918. Their bodies all lie in American cemeteries at Men-il-la-Tour, where Mr. Peters had his headquarters for three months.

He praises highly the system in which the American cemeteries are kept up in France.

He also visited the American cemetery of Pontanezen near Brest and that of Camp DeSouge near Bordeaux where lie the bodies of Allen county boys. He took the pictures of their graves to give them to their relatives.

He says that reconstruction of the devastated regions has fairly begun. Work of reconstructing the sewer system of Verdun began early in February, and many of the shell holes in the cities and farming districts have already been filled up by German prisoners. He says that Reims is the worst devastated city he saw.

A city, before the war, of 200,000 people was reduced to a ruined city in 24 hours by the German fire bombs, which crumbled and burnt the city, so that only 14 out of 17,000 stone buildings were left intact.

Among the ruins is the once most beautiful cathedral of the world. In speaking of the American welfare work in Europe, Mr. Peters makes the astounding statement that 50 per cent of the funds raised for this work was squandered, and he challenges a contradiction to his statement. He says that only those implicated in its mis-management will dare to defend its work.

He speaks highly of the conduct of the ''doughboys'' and says that their discipline were exemplary of good grace, but can not speak so well of some of the immature officials, who had and exercised a wider range of privileges.

He says that the attitude of the French people in general toward the Americans is that of a friendly nature, but thinks that much of this is inspired by a love of their money. ''They regret very much,'' Mr. Peters says, ''that the American tourists have been forbidden to visit the devastated areas, for many of these places have been commercialized and expected much profit from demobilization of the army.'' He says that the merchants, especially of Paris, have stocked up to the limit, expecting to sell their wares at fabulous figures, as they did to the Americans up to the present time.

He advises that all efforts should be made to have all our American soldiers and sailors return home from Europe ''toot sweet.''

He says that the morals of some of Europe's large cities is very low, that licentiousness is licensed by the municipality.

Mr. Peters' home coming was by way of Marseilles, through the Strait of Gibraltar, on the steamer ''Canada'' of the Fabre Line, and stopped at the city of Gibraltar, Lisbon and St. Michaels, on one of the Azores. The ship also stopped at Providence, Rhode Island, before landing at Brooklyn.

He remained several days at New York City to make an official report of his work in Europe.

He brought back many trophies of war presented him by the ''doughboys'' and officers of the 3rd Bn. 55th Infantry of the 7th Division to which he was attached.

He also had many souvenirs of France from Paris, Versailles, Lourdes, Nice, Monte Carlo, Strasbourg and Domremy, the birth place of Joan d' Arc. He also has many views taken by himself of the horrors of the war, as he crossed and recrossed the Hindenburg line—''No-Man's Land'' many times.—(Exact copy taken from print of Friday morning's Journal-Gazette paper, August 1st, 1919).

The local press at Monroeville, Indiana, scarcely mentioned my return. Another affrontery that I noticed upon my return home, although I made no remarks at the time, was when the patriotic citizens of Monroeville, Indiana, undertook to erect a bronze tablet having there all the names of the ''doughboys'' who were called to the front in defense of their country. Although I contributed to the cost of the tablet I noticed that my name was intentionally omitted by the committee of promoters, but a name, whose citizenship is in question, adorns the tablet. Such is the inquisition of revenge and hatred bestowed upon the innocent. I made no boast of my position, as I was loyal to my country, and only three citizens of my city knew of my plans, they were the Rev. Father Norbit Feldon, my spiritual director (now deceased), George E. Spake and Oll Taylor. The ''pew'' one sits in often causes much trouble as it did with Al Smith. I received the very highest merit of discharge of my double duty by each department. From Edward N. Hurley I possess my certificate of discharge of honor and from the Public Service Reserve for aid to the nation in influencing an early and successful termination of the war. The seal of the United States emblazons this document.

The Knights of Columbus forwarded me a gold medal with my name inscribed thereon as follows: ''Awarded to Joseph J. Peters, Secretary for the Knights of Columbus in Their War Activities, Supporting Our Country's Victorious Participation in the Great World Conflict of 1914-1919.'' I also hold an award of merit from the same organization for ''diligence in my work and activities in behalf of our heroic men in the navy and army and in support of our country's victorious struggle for the liberty and democracy of mankind, in the Great World conflict of 1914-1919. Signed by: Wm. J. McGinley, Supreme Secretary; James A. Flaherty, Supreme Knight, and Wm. J. Milligan, Chairman War Activities.

SUPREME COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

This gold medal was presented to the writer, by James A. Flaherty, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, for noble work performed in the World War activities, with this notation: "Awarded to Joseph J. Peters, Secretary in the Great World War Conflict, of 1914-1919."

CHAPTER XL

Authenticity and Data of My Work

All my papers and orders, notes and data are preserved, and from this material I am able to give you a first description of my operations, ''Before, During and After the World War,'' giving you my latitude of the conditions of the countries and cities and places visited.

I am greatly indebted to the following friends, buddies and officers, other than those already mentioned, for their noble interest shown me in the tasks imposed upon me in getting this post of secretary and interpreter during the siege of what we hope was the ''Last War'':

W. G. Austin, International Quartermaster Corps, American Army, Room 495, War Department, Washington, D. C.; Fred J. Riles; Claude J. Weirman, K. C., Fort Wayne, Indiana; Victor T. Kelley; A. S. McSwigar; Colonel W. E. Sweetser; Wm. P. Mulligan, K. C. Director, 16 Plac de la Madelline, Paris, France; Brigadier General W. W. Hart; John F. McCarthy; Stephen A. Callahan, K. C. Director, Fort Wayne, Indiana, (now deceased); C. W. Cameran; Captain W. A. Kelsey, Fort Wayne, Indiana, (now deceased); James Murther; Edward N. Hurley, Washington, D. C.; Frances H. Fox, K. C. Director, Indianapolis, Indiana; Charles M.

Niezer, K. C. Commander, Fort Wayne, Indiana; R. H. Van Deman, Chief Military Secretary, Paris, France; Chaplain C. Cabret, St. Sabine, France; Rev. Father Norbit Feldon, Monroeville, Indiana, (now deceased); B. W. Egar, Department of Ordnance, Washington, D. C.; John A. J. Fanton; William F. Fox, K. C. Commander, New York City; W. B. Shlson, Secretary War Service, 1712 Eye St., Washington, D. C.; Alvin Z. Stones; Lieutenant L. K. Bonner, 1st Lieutenant Ordnance U. S. A., A. E. F.; Thomas Epperson, Supply Co., 55th Infantry; Robert Lendsay, M. G. Co., 55th Infantry; John A. Davis, D. C. K. C.; Colonel I. A. McCrea, Department of Transportation, Major M. C. Commonding; H. H. Buskirk, Assistant Federal Director of War Movement, Field of Battle; Dr. F. N. Seerly, 12 Rue d'Agnesseau, Paris, France; Philip E. Jacobs, Coal Dale, Pennsylvania; Dr. M. J. Exner, 347 Madison avenue, New York City.

CHAPTER XLI

A Book of Facts

And finally, let me say to my readers that while we claim that the United States is a free country to do what is right, I have the evidence that money and syndicates try to rule. My work was offered to a number of the large publishing houses of the country who bid on

The author after his return home, with his sister.

work by the thousand books, but some of these large syndicates replied that they were not interested.

The fact is, there are hundreds of writers on topics of the Great War, but none had the privilege and freedom of the swing that this writer had. The sale of this work is not in the hands of syndicates, nor is it placed for sale with the intent of graft and holdup, as is practiced by many of these concerns. They advertise extensively through high pressure magazines, the air and movies. The sale of my book is conducted through my personal effort and capital.

In closing, let me say to my readers, as I have said before, that I did not use embellished language in my work, but only such as all could understand. I expect criticism, but let that be with an odor of sweetness, for I am not partial to any one or to any organization, everything that I wrote here is based upon facts, many of which were taken from my diary as I wrote it then, and I defy contradiction.

In this book I am giving you the wisdom of my experience and giving it true and straight from the shoulder.

THE END